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Thailand - Church

Bangkok, Thailand - (NC) - More than 3,000 faithful attend- ed the solemn dedication of the new Church of the Most Holy Redeemer which was built here by American Redemptorist mis- sionaries.

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

Mr. Albert J. Wordeman of St. Bernard's parish in Dayton, is a person who uses his contacts to lead souls to Christ. With the help of sev- eral boys he delivers papers to the homes of customers and does all the collecting himself.

Albert has a friendly greet- ing and a O'Brien cheerful word for all the people on his route. They respond to his cheerful smile and occasion- ally pause to tell him their trou- bles and to ask his advice.

"We have a car," said Mrs. Elsie Bailey, "but I don't know how to drive and my husband doubts my ability to learn."

"It isn't hard at all," said Al- bert encouragingly. "Get your husband to give you a few les- sons and in no time you'll be as good a driver as he is."

"That's a swell idea," replied Mrs. Bailey, as her face lit up with the belief behind this practice.

A few weeks later Mrs. Bailey held up the car keys to which was attached a St. Christopher medal. "A friend gave this medal to Tom," she said, "and told him to pray to Saint Christopher so no accident would occur. Would you tell me a little more about the belief behind this practice?"

"WE CATHOLICS," replied Albert, "believe that the saints are members of God's family in Heaven. They and we on earth are bound together in the same faith, and are members of the same Mystical Body of Christ. In the Apostles' Creed we say, 'I believe... in the Communion of saints.' This means that we can pray to them to intercede for us before the throne of God. They can join their prayers to ours and present the object of our joint petition to God."

"Is there any basis for that in the Bible?" inquired Mrs. Bailey.

"Yes, in both the Old and the New Testaments. In Genesis we are told that God commanded Abraham to ask Abraham's prayers, saying, 'He shall pray for thee and thou shalt live.' God hearkened to the prayers of Moses interceding for the sinful children of Israel in the desert. God said to the friends of Job, 'My servant Job shall pray for you; his face I will accept.'"

"CHRIST HIMSELF tells us that the members of His Heavenly family are interested in our welfare, saying, 'There shall be joy before the angels of God upon one sinner doing penance.' Thus, guided by Scripture and the practice of the Church from the time of the Apostles to the present day, we pray to the saints to have them add their prayers to ours and thus to in- tercede for us."

"St. Christopher," continued Albert, "is a martyr of the third century, who is honored as the patron of travelers. When un- taking a trip we say a prayer to St. Christopher for protection on our journey. Many have placed a medal of him in their cars. This does not mean that the medal itself has any efficacy. That would be a gross supersti- tion."

"What does it mean then?" asked Mrs. Bailey.

"It means simply that we in- volve the prayers and interces- sion of St. Christopher that we shall have God's protection for a safe journey."

"That's very reasonable. It squares with Scripture and with common sense."

"Father Hubert Schmitz," Al- bert then told her, "is starting an Inquiry Class at St. Bernard's where all the teachings of the Catholic religion will be explain- ed in a kind and friendly man- ner. No one will be asked to join. Would you like to come?"

"YES," replied Mrs. Bailey. "I'll talk to Tom and see if he would also care to attend."

"I'll be glad to bring you both and introduce you to Father Schmitz."

Tom was interested. So Albert brought Elsie and Tom Bailey to the Inquiry Class and had them meet Father Schmitz and the other members of the Class.

A week before Christmas the telephone at the Wordeman home rang. "My husband and I," said Elsie, "are going to be bap- tized on Christmas Eve. Would you write us a sponsor?"

"Would I?" exclaimed Albert. "That's the best Christmas present you or anyone could give me!"

A friendly smile, a word of encouragement and a bit of ex- planation, followed by a gracious invitation to an Inquiry Class, started two souls on the path to Christ and to His Church. Albert Wordeman shows us all what we can do if we will but try.

**GI-Discarded Tin Cans**  
**Make Roofs For Koreans**

Pittsburgh — (NC) — "Nothing is wasted by my peo- ple. Even the tin cans which your GI's throw away opened and flattened out. They make good roofs for houses and last three or four years."

The speaker was Bishop Paul M. Ro, Vicar Apostolic of Seoul, Korea, who arrived here just six days after leaving Seoul. He set up headquarters in this city for a two-month stay in this country. He traveled the 8,000 miles to thank the American people for their generosity to the hordes of refugees, homeless and needy in his war-shattered coun- try.

THE BISHOP said that more than 5-million Koreans fled from the Communist terror in the north, crammed into South Korea and now are living in complete poverty. Thousands are existing in caves, he added, but through the assistance of the American people, many others have found jobs and are building homes.


A rosy picture for the future of the Catholic Church in Korea was sketched by Bishop Ro. He said, "Many highly educated per- sons have been converted and these include six army generals and a number of high government officials. The Minister of Home Affairs is a convert. Among the 20,338,028 people in South Korea, there are 189,412 Catholics. In the year which ended last May, we baptized more than 6,000 infants and 14,000 adults."

THERE WAS A note of sad- ness in the Bishop's voice as he described how his people observe Christmas. He said, "I'm sorry I could not be among my people this Christmas. But on Christmas Eve they meet and have prayers and carols and speeches, then they all go to Midnight Mass."

The Korean prelate brightened as he added: "But at least they had something to eat this Christ- mas. This was assured by the generosity of the American peo- ple and by War Relief Services—National Catholic Welfare Con- ference."

Brisbane Prelate  
Brisbane, Australia — (RNS) — Archbishop James Duhig of Brisbane celebrated here the 49th anniversary of his consecration as a bishop. Although only 84 years of age, he has been a prelate longer than anyone in the history of the Catholic Church in Australia.

**THE EPIPHANY**



This 15th century Gothic relief, entitled The Epiphany is from the outward wing of the high altar of the parish church of Hallstatt, Upper Austria. (NC Features)

**Holy Father's Christmas Talk**

Vatican City — (NC) — Following is a translation of the Christmas Eve message delivered in Italian by His Holiness Pope Pius XII and broadcast throughout the world.

With the simplicity of children, so dear to Jesus, We are preparing to welcome into Our heart the charm of Christ- mas and to savor its pure joy, encouraged by the Apostle's invitation — "Rejoice in the Lord always. The Lord is near." (Phil. 4:4-5).

"The Lord is near." Already, their timid lights gleaming, thousands and thousands of cribs, prepared by pious and lov- ing hands await Him in churches or in the warm intimacy of the homes.

"He is born," will, within a few hours, in midnight's mystic silence, be the proclamation of the Sacred Liturgy, re-echoing on earth the angels' messages of peace.

AND YOU, also, beloved sons and daughters of the Christian world, welcome this serene and intimate joy of Christmas, abounding in holy talks, with sweet ecstasies and tender hopes. Oh, if only men knew how to live out their whole lives in that at- mosphere of joy, with those feel- ings of goodness and peace, which Christmas pours forth on all sides, how different, how much happier the earth would be. Divine Providence has not per- mitted Us to broadcast this year Our usual Christmas message, although We are preparing it in- sofar as the condition of Our health permits.

But in order not to interrupt the long series already given, We intend to publish it as soon as, God willing, it is completed.

Meanwhile, even in the lone- liness of suffering and with gratitude to the Catholic world for the prayers unceasingly poured forth for Our consol- ation, We are, in Our good wishes of peace, thinking of all Our children scattered throughout the world, and indeed, of the whole human family.

PRESENT IN Our thoughts, first of all, as We wish them every grace in the Lord, are Our closest collaborators, the beloved members of the Sacred College, whose most worthy dean, in his eloquent message, has expressed their devoted wishes.

Present also are the members

of the Pontifical Antechamber, the Roman prelates, members of the Roman Curia and all others of the Pontifical household; the shepherds of the flocks of God in the episcopal sees, as in all their priestly ministry; the reli- gious orders and congregations, our dear militants of Catholic Action, always on watch with us in the fervor of the good fight.

And also in every land, of all groups and every condition of life, who are gladdened by the hope that Jesus, the Redeemer, will be their peace in this life, their joy for all eternity.

WITH PARTICULAR affection We wish serenity and comfort to those especially loved by Jesus, since He has given them a share in His Cross.

To all who are saddened by their physical and mental infirmities, who are alone in the world in their grief and their misery, the victims of men or of their unfortunate lot.

With bleeding heart, We im- plore heavenly consolation and heroic strength for all those of Our children who have been forcibly isolated in prison and in concentration camp, and who have been found worthy to suf- fer for the sake of the Faith, of truth and of justice.

LASTLY, TO ALL peoples, to their rulers, to those who bear the responsibility of the world's destinies, may the message of goodness and peace of the son of God-Made-Man reach out—and be welcomed in the sincerity of deeds. To all, as an augury of abundant heavenly favors, We impart, in the name of the Di- vine Redeemer, Our paternal Apostolic Benediction.

May the blessings of Almighty God, the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, descend upon you now and remain with you forever. Amen.

**Red China Hurts Chances For Admittance To UN**

By J. J. GILBERT

Washington — (NC) — If any further argument was needed against the admittance of Red China to membership in the United Nations, the Peiping regime itself has provided it.

Revelation of the fact that the Chinese communists are holding eleven American airmen in jail in violation of the Korean armis- tice has stirred up a tremendous resentment in this country.

MEMBERS OF the 84th Con- gress, about to convene, will come to Washington with the displeas- ure of their constituents freshly engraved upon their minds. Mem- bers of the new Congress who are already here have written back home to constituents to say that they think the action of the Chinese Reds is "high-handed," "illegal," and "inhuman."

In action taken so far in the United Nations on the question of the airmen's imprisonment, the United States has won a dis- tinct advantage. Forty-six nations

joined us in condemning China's action. Only Soviet Rus- sia and four Iron Curtain coun- tries defended it.

It may be that the question will eventually be settled by admit- ting 35 Chinese students now in the United States for the study of U.S. airmen. There were about 4,500 Chinese students in the United States at the time com- munist China entered the Korean war. Of these 450 chose to return to Red China.

THE UNITED STATES set all but 35 of these leave for their homeland. The 35 detainees, sci- entists and technicians whose abilities, improved in this country, might have aided Red China war- rily. They are not in jail, but must periodically report their whereabouts to U.S. immigration authorities. Under law, the U.S. has a right to detain them here. But, even if Red China does force the exchange of these stu- dents, it will only add to the cost of "blackmail," and contribute greatly to the sentiment which opposes diplomatic recognition of Red China and its admittance to the UN.

**Irish Primate Hits IRA Violence**

Belfast, Northern Ireland — (RNS) — New outbreaks of vio- lence by the revolutionary Irish Republican Army which twice this year has raided British Army bases in Northern Ireland, were denounced by John Car- dinal D'Alton, Archbishop of Armagh and Roman Catholic Primate of All Ireland.

During a midnight Mass in Armagh cathedral, the cardinal appealed to young Irishmen "not to have recourse to methods of violence in their eagerness to end the unnatural division of our country."

"I appeal to them not to join in unauthorized forces to which they apparently are sometimes asked to bind themselves by oath," he said. "Irishmen should not, by precipitate and irrespon- sible actions, injure the cause to which they are devoted. The in- justice of partition is as glaring that it cannot continue, but every true lover of Ireland should pray that it will end in an atmosphere of goodwill."

Greenery Chain  
Denver — (RNS) — The sale of comic books and pocket novels has been discontinued in 137 "Salvage" stores in six Western states because officials of the grocery chain don't feel they are "qualified" to eliminate those dealing with violence, sex, hor- ror and crime.

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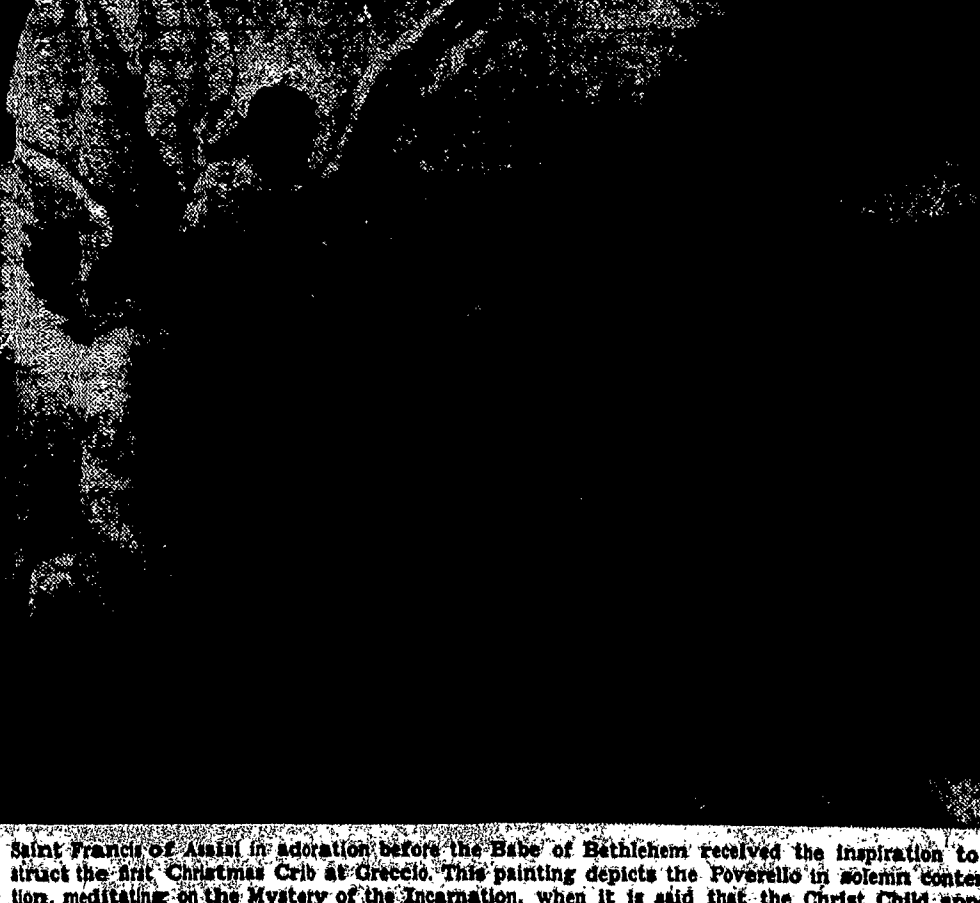
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**WEIDER PLUMBING**



Saint Francis of Assisi in adoration before the Babe of Bethlehem received the inspiration to construct the first Christmas Crib at Greccio. This painting depicts the Foverello in solemn contemplation, meditating on the Mystery of the Incarnation, when it is said that the Christ Child appeared surrounded by angels. This canvas hangs in St. Francis Hospital, a short distance from St. Bonaven- ture College, in Ocean, N. Y. (NCWC)

**GENESEE**

THE BOTTLE

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