

Catholic Press Month

In the last ten years, there has been a remarkable increase in the publication of Catholic books and periodicals. Some attribute this to the general interest in religious affairs which has characterized the post-war years. To a great extent, this increase is due to the annual emphasis given Catholic literature during the month of February. Exhibits in schools, lectures to parish groups, sermons from pulpits have impressed our Catholic people with their need to do some Catholic reading.

There are four general categories or kinds of publications: (1) books, (2) pamphlets, (3) magazines, and (4) newspapers.

Several splendid editions of the Holy Bible have highlighted the list of outstanding books published in the last few years. Fulton Ouster, Bishop Sheen, Father Keller are authors whose books have had to be reprinted over and over to satisfy the demand.

The beloved and late Father Lord provided the text of pamphlets from Queen's Work which sold thousands of copies, and parish pamphlet racks have featured well-written, well-illustrated booklets from several other publishers.

Monthly magazines have in some cases doubled their subscriptions and have vastly improved their style and arrangement of articles to appeal to an alert Catholic audience. Sign, Liturgical Information, Catholic Digest are names as familiar to modern Catholics as Post or Colliers.

Nearly every diocese in the United States now has its own diocesan weekly paper, to bring the people up-to-the-minute reports of Catholic interest and commentary and instruction to supplement the Sunday sermon. Our own Courier-Journal goes into well over two-thirds of the homes of the diocese to be a link between bishop and people, pastor and parishioners.

More increases in subscription totals will not achieve the purpose of the Catholic Press, however. Books and papers are to be read, not merely paid for. Too often, we meet so-called Catholics whose minds are warped and saturated with the secular slant on current events. A person will acquire a Catholic outlook only by Catholic reading.

Fortunately, most of our Catholic people are anxious to be intelligent, informed in their faith. Systematic, thoughtful reading of Catholic publications will aid our people to be the kind of Catholics they want to be.

Catholic Books Expensive?

Priests have heard the complaint every time they urge people to read Catholic books, and the publishers hear it all the time. "But Catholic books are so expensive! I'd love to read them, but I just can't afford them." OK, let's compare.

During December of 1954, 187 secular novels were published at an average cost of \$5.50; 145 biographies averaged \$4.40; and 75 histories ran around \$5.50. During the whole of last year, 110 different publishers issued over 400 different books of definite Catholic appeal, and the over-all average was \$3.76, only a fraction more than the cost of a novel, which are usually considered the lowest priced book there is.

Catholic readers ranked biographies first in popularity with 65 books; spiritual reading and meditation came second with 55.

Books about Mary totaled 30; there were 29 which treated history, and 14 each on education and liturgy.

Books like these require study, research, and skill to write and the Catholic who reads them will develop a superior Christian mind — and all at a price of an ordinary novel. It ought to dawn on some people that they spend more for a fifth of Scotch or for just one evening of dinner-and-show than they do all year for some Catholic literature which will last lots longer and do them more good. Have you read any Catholic books recently?

SUNDAY SERMON

Invitation To Heaven

SEPTUAGESIMA SUNDAY

(The three Sundays before Lent have the rather strange names Septuagesima, Sexagesima, and Quinquagesima — which are Latin words meaning Seventieth, Sixtieth, and Fiftieth Day. These refer, roughly, to the number of days before Easter.)

This Sunday, we begin a new season of the church year, as anyone can easily recognize. The priest wears the penitential purple vestments, the altar lacks the usual decorations, the Christmas Gloria is silenced, we no longer say the joyful word Alleluia. Last Sunday, we rejoiced with the angels in adoration; this Sunday, the Introit is the somber, "The grass of the field."

During the Christmas season, we contemplated the birth of our Lord and His hidden life as a youth. While it is a tender picture with many striking similarities for us to imitate, the birth of Christ achieves its meaning only in the mysteries of His redeeming work as Savior.

THAT IS WHY Lent and Easter are even more meaningful in our Christian life. Just as Jesus died for our sins and arose to a life of glory, so the Church wants us to die to sin and live in grace which is the prelude to heaven's glorious happiness.

It is for this reason that the Church has such a long preparation for Easter, a period of increasing intensity which begins two months before the great feast to assure us of being ready rightly to celebrate it.

THESE NEXT THREE Sundays are like interlude music — they change the theme from Christmas joy to Lenten penance, and they suggest many lessons for our prayers and meditations during Lent.

Just one word, "invitation," characterizes the whole of this Sunday's Mass. God recruits souls for His Kingdom; that is the picture given by THE GOSPEL. This basic theme permeates the whole day: Office, Epistle, Prayers.

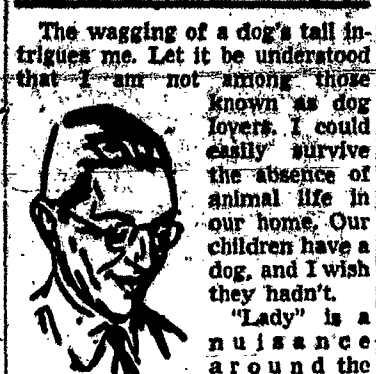
God invites, but he does not force us. He gives us His grace, but awaits the response of our own free will.

WE HAVE read recently so much about atomic power — its frightening force which kills thousands in an instant; and how it can drive ships, and eventually light whole cities, and transform barren waste lands into fertile fields. Atomic energy can be used for life or death, progress or

Hospital To Move
New York (NC) — Misericordia General Hospital will be relocated on a new site in the North East Bronx section here with a \$7,250,000 plant within two years, His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York, has announced

JOSEPH BREIG

Why Do Tails Wag?



The wagging of a dog's tail intrigues me. Let it be understood that I am not among those known as dog lovers. I could easily survive the absence of animal life in our home. Our children have a dog, and I wish they hadn't.

"Lady" is a nuisance around the house. And there is no way of not having her around the house. When she is outside, she barks and annoys the neighbors. And I will not have the neighbors annoyed.

Our dog therefore occupies a place either in the kitchen or in the basement — mostly the former. In the kitchen, she lies across a doorway, where a folding gate has been installed to keep her out of the dining room.

I HAVE BEEN a slave of folding gates ever since we first began having children. I have spent nearly half my life unfastening and fastening gates which protected crawling and toddling children from tumbling down stairways.

I never looked forward to the time when there would be no more toddling children in our house. I would be glad to see an endless succession of them. But I did look forward to the time when I could move about without stopping to open and close gates.

I did enjoy a year or two of unaccustomed freedom and mobility before Lady arrived. It was wonderful to be able to walk from room to room, and up and down stairways, without running an obstacle course. But my liberty was short-lived.

ALMOST NEVER, now, do I go directly from the dining room into the kitchen, or vice versa. Not only does that involve unfastening and fastening Lady's folding gate, but also stepping over or around Lady. I take the long way through the door which goes from the kitchen into the living room.

Stepping around Lady is even more complicated than opening and shutting folding gates. The trouble is that Lady is always overjoyed to see almost anybody. She is a gushing, exclamatory, gesticulating female. She doesn't want you to pass her. She wants you to stop and be made much of.

THE SITUATION is even more difficult when Lady is "in the basement." She lies either at the foot of the stairway or two or three steps up. She greets you effusively. Getting past her into the basement is a feat of acrobatics.

Lady also is an annoyance when I am eating. This ritual usually takes place in the kitchen. Opening and setting the dining room table is too much trouble. Now I find eating a nuisance even without Lady. I begrudge the time necessary to push things into my head and chew them. But with Lady present, what was merely an inconvenience becomes a major nuisance.

I REGRET by ordering Lady, with an imperious gesture to go lie down. I do not tell her to lay down, as everybody else does. I demand, from any dog occupying our premises, respect for good grammar. So I tell her to lie down, which she does obediently, looking reproachfully from her brown eyes. The moment I am seated she is up again, either sitting beside my chair and watching every bite I eat, or forcing on the floor under my feet.

Dining becomes a frantic process of stuffing in food between reiterated cries of "Lady — go lie down!" If I could discover some method of living without eating, I would gladly adopt it.

But I must get back to the subject of tail-wagging. As I said, it fascinates me. Lady's bushy tail waves incessantly like a plume, indicating her pleasure in human company. Why did God make dogs so their tails wag? Was it simply to provide a signal for lonely folk that they are loved by Him if by no one else? Or why?

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Sources Of Faith

Truths Revealed By God, Taught By Church Are Contained In Scripture And Tradition

By REV. HENRY ATWELL

Last of three articles on the Catholic teaching concerning the virtue of faith.

God does not speak to each of us personally to tell us what we must believe, yet He insists on a complete and total faith in all He has revealed. Where do we find this message from God? Where is God's word in the world today?

Very simply, the answer is: "The Church of God makes known to us the truths He has revealed."

After our Lord had established His Church on Peter, the Rock and given him the keys to control the Kingdom of God on earth, Christ gave the command: "Make disciples of all nations, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you." (Mt. 28:19)

THE APOSTLES and their successors have been engaged these twenty centuries in the task of bringing truth to men and men to God. It has meant being crucified, head downwards, like Peter; stoned, like Stephen; torn by lions in the coliseum, like Ignatius; exiled, like John; imprisoned, like Cardinal Mindszenty. Each generation has had its martyrs and its heralds of the faith.

Long before the Bible was even written, centuries before it was assembled as one book, and over a thousand years before it was printed, those who searched for truth were able to find it in the Church which obeyed Christ's command to teach.

The living voice of the one true Church is the source of our knowledge as to what we need to know, believe, and do to attain union with our heavenly Father.

Most of us are born into a Catholic home and receive instruction in the faith from our parents. Parents receive special grace from the Sacrament of Matrimony to assist them in this work of teaching the coming generations. Official representatives of God's Church who supervise the instruction programs in homes and schools are parish priests.

Together with parents, we should consider priests as our closest friends for they are our best guides in our quest for God. Catholic tradition gives the title "Father" to a priest precisely because of this intimate relationship.

In a fuller sense, the Bishop is our teacher in the true faith. He has received this faith handed down by direct succession and without interruption from the Apostles.

Finally, the Pope, as Bishop of Rome, is the successor of St. Peter and inherits the infallible authority to instruct us in matters of faith and morals. Quite obviously, priests, bishops, and popes do not receive notes from heaven telling them what to tell others. Where do they find the truths they speak to us?

THE CHURCH bases its teachings on Scripture and Tradition.

BIBLE

In the course of the ages since Adam, God has actually spoken His mind to men whom He chose to be His special prophets and ambassadors. At least fifty of these men wrote down the words God spoke to them, and these written words, seventy-two books in all, forty-five were written before Christ was born; the other twenty-seven, in the years after His death.

These sacred books contain much of what God has revealed to the human race. They were carefully preserved by the Jews, and later by the Christians.

THOSE WHO wrote these sacred books wrote on perishable materials such as papyrus, parchment, and later by the Christians, paper.

Daily Mass Calendar

Sunday, Feb. 6 — Septuagesima Sunday (violet). No Gloria. 2nd Prayer of St. Titus, 3rd of St. Dorothy, Creed, Trinity Preface.

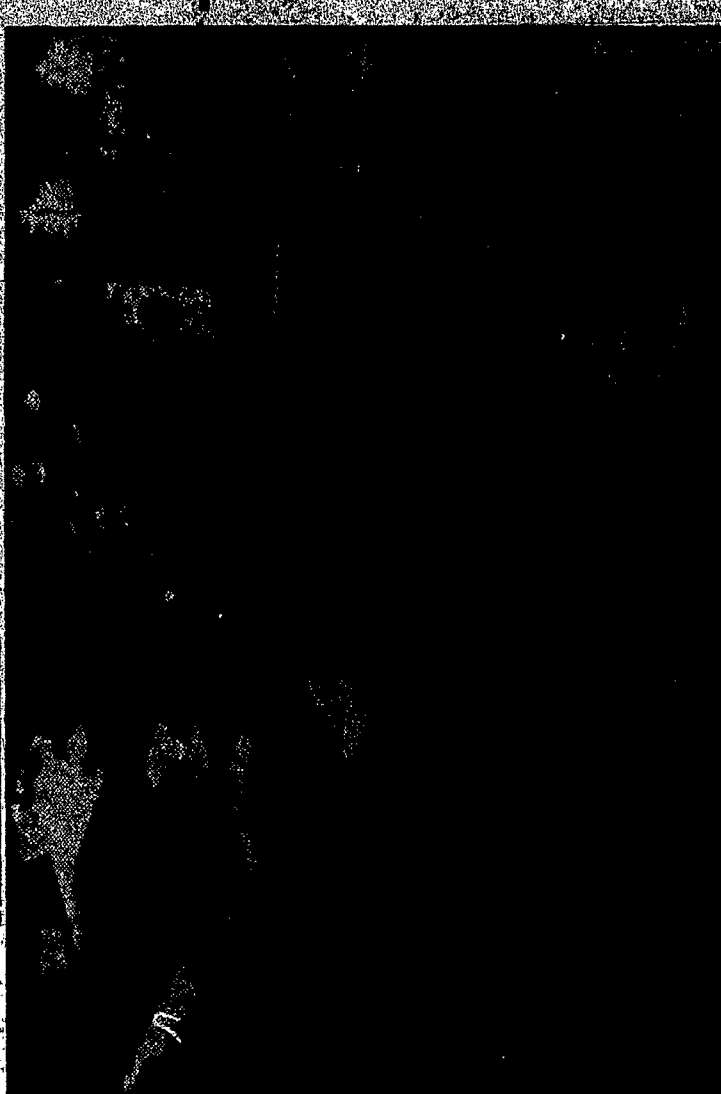
Monday, Feb. 7 — St. Romanus, Abbot (white). Gloria, Tract, Common Pref.

Tuesday, Feb. 8 — St. John of Matha, Confessor (white). Gloria, Tract, Common Pref. Tuesday, Feb. 9 — St. Cyril of Alexandria, Bishop, Confessor, Doctor (white). Gloria, 2nd Prayer of St. Apollonia, Tract, Creed, Common Pref.

Thursday, Feb. 10 — St. Scholastica, Virgin (white). Gloria, Tract, Common Pref.

Friday, Feb. 11 — Apparition of our Lady at Lourdes (white). Gloria, Tract, Creed, Preface of B.V.M.

Saturday, Feb. 12 — Seven Holy Founders (white). Gloria, Tract, Common Pref. Bishop Kearney has directed that the "Imperata" or final Prayer be for the Pope. Alleluia is not said from the evening of Saturday, Feb. 5 until Holy Saturday at Mass.



Pope and Bishops preserve truths revealed by God to be taught all men. Church's voice echoes Bible and Tradition, sources of religious truth.

ment, and animal skins. The original copies are long since lost, but careful copies were made by hand, by scribes and monks, and these preserved the word of God so that we might read it today.

When practical printing was invented just before our country was discovered, Gutenberg printed the Bible as the first book to come off his press. Since then, thousands and thousands of copies have been printed, some with just the actual text, others with explanations and illustrations, simply bound or bound expensively, but no matter what the style or format, it is the word of God.

The Church has always encouraged Catholics to read the Bible and grants an indulgence of 300 days to those who read the Bible for fifteen minutes.

TRADITION

It is interesting to note that Christ while on earth never wrote anything that has endured. He did not tell the Apostles to write anything either. Seven of them, as a matter of fact, have left no records of their preaching.

God's word is clearly revealed. He has spoken and His message is preserved in the Bible and Tradition of the Church. He now awaits our response and those who reply with strong, enduring faith, to these He promises, "He who believes... shall be saved." (Mark 16:16)

An Act Of Faith

O my God, I firmly believe that Thou art one God in three Divine Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost; I believe that Thy Divine Son became man, and died for our sins, and that He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe these and all the truths which the Holy Catholic Church teaches, because Thou hast revealed them, who canst neither deceive nor be deceived.

TEEN TOPICS

Rosemary Stott Sacred Heart

Plans to teach school after completing her education are foremost in the mind of Rosemary Stott, a senior at the Academy of the Sacred Heart. A love of English and education has prompted Rosemary to this goal.

Active in numerous activities at school, she maintained standing on the school honor roll for her first three years at school and held the class presidency for the same period. Presently Rosemary is editor of the new school paper, The Flame.

ROSEMARY still believes in recreation outside school. In this category she rates skating and playing the piano as her favorites. She believes that the greatest danger to young people is the result of wasting time and therefore makes full use of every minute.

In school, she is the class mission representative and recording secretary of the Catholic Student Mission Crusade. She is also a member of the sports committee.

Rosemary looks forward to each first Friday at Sacred Heart for on that day there is a school procession honoring the Sacred Heart. She listed her favorite hymn as "How To Praise Thee, O Mary We Know Not."

The purpose of the Sodality she stated was "that upon leaving school we will be of service to God and to our country, living as a true child of His Sacred Heart and following in the footsteps of Our Lady."

She plans on continuing her education at Trinity College.

BOOK SHELF

Abbe Pierre

By Sister Margaret Ryan, O.S.B., Mount St. Mary's College

ABBE PIERRE AND THE BAGPIPERS OF ENNAUS, by Abbe Pierre. Translated by Lucie Simon. P. J. Kenedy, 1954. 206 pp. \$2.75. Available at Trants and other Catholic bookstores.

Kenedy's has a best seller for 1955, and thousands of little Parisian families, homes before have a house of their own on a tiny lot that belongs to them — all because of the Abbe Pierre. This is the story of the French Parliament who did not know how to rest when other people had no bed.

No, that must read a little differently. Kenedy's has a best seller because a staff member of the French edition of the Herald Tribune translated an enthralling novel, "Enthralled," a word proper only to the capture of the free imagination of an actor — but for once a factual account of a man who is an enthralling story even for the prosaic.

One reason is that the novelist himself, Abbe Pierre, a Russian, French craftsman of real skill, could not remain an observer; he became one of Abbe Pierre's ex-delinquent ragpickers, who built homes for the homeless. The other reason is the Abbe in whose house was God.

EX-CAPITALISTS, ex-convicts, ex-slaves, ex-bureaucrats, ex-actors, ex-artists, ex-anything, they were all there, waiting to know what "homeless" meant. A novelist wanting to know about having no present, no future, no place in any heaven — these are Abbe Pierre's ragpickers.

These joined him in the mission he did not know he had — for he first opened Ennaus as a sort of homeless Guardian house of discussion for the Christian and non-Christian inquiring youth that walks the world every summer nowadays.

When the delinquent men had found the Abbe (and it is particularly difficult, the ex-capitalist who together with the Abbe gives this book stature), then they and the Abbe found the families, living under tarpaulins in fields, in February, in keeping warm over vents in the city sidewalks, watching their babies die — and not in India but in Paris! They found little Noelle, among others, who changed the world around for Uncle Bout.

NO POOR-HOUSES IN FRANCE! Oh yes — full. No room. Five thousand in the one at Nanterre, and no occupation once you were there; death to human nature.

When the Abbe's ragpickers found the families, they bought them land and built them houses. They had to. And when the Abbe's salary ran out, they became junk men; then, to make money a little faster, they salvaged in the city dumps, selecting usable garbage and usable scrap-iron; sold their findings (well, they kept pigs, with part of them).

They made good money. (In France today wages do not keep pace with living costs — a man can have a job and still have to huddle in doorways at night with his wife and child — and she must push on with that baby carriage all the next day, all in subways — sit and walk.)

AN ARRE, heading a garbage squad? A member of Parliament? How you will love Out-look magazine! How you will love present! How you will suffer with all these are ways they use to purge themselves of attachment to the world.

REINCARNATION is one of Hinduism's characteristic beliefs and shapes the devotional life of its members. After a period of rest after death, Hindus believe the person is born again, and then again, over and over, each time a bit better, until absorbed in the all-pervading god called Brahman.

To achieve this purification, Hindus adopt rigorous penances. The familiar bed of nails, walking on hot coals, long fasts, pilgrimages in torrid sunshine — all these are ways they use to purge themselves of attachment to the world.

MOHANDAS GANDHI was a devout Hindu, and his combination of religion and politics resulted in making India independent of Great Britain, which he achieved without violence. He achieved many of the gradual concessions and ultimately India's freedom through the pressure of his starvation fasts.

A Catholic looks at Hinduism somewhat as a man looks at a house ruined by a sudden, violent storm. It is a look of sorrow but of determination. In the chaos of the ruins, he sees remnants of what he can use again, but he is challenged by the urgency to rebuild his home for his family.

Hinduism is a chaotic religion. It has aspects of truth and high ideals, but it admits the crudest idolatry, superstition, and the injustice of the caste system.

Christianity was taken to India by St. Thomas the Apostle but in twenty centuries counts hardly two million in a population total of over three hundred million. India's freedom has tended to deepen the nationalist Hindu, faith, and Communism appeals to the poverty-stricken victims of the caste system. Christianity has a long and difficult apostolate ahead in India.

Hurry! but no — because you'll hate to have finished this book. You understand that when you house ten men, the news gets round. Twenty more appear. When you house three families, you must soon find land and building materials for three more. And Communism is a religion after that. The new suburbs of Paris are already the world's favorite story — the "insurrection of charity," it is called.

ROSEMARY STOTT and the Glen Miller Story was her favorite movie.

Rosemary is presently an aspirant to the Children of Mary Sodality at Sacred Heart. She believes this is "the greatest honor and joy a true child of the Sacred Heart can know."

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Hinduism Seen

'Hodge-Podge' Religion

(This week, LIFE magazine begins a series of articles on Great Religions of the World. The COURIER-JOURNAL will attempt to interpret these religions according to Catholic teaching.)

THE HINDUS are probably correct in claiming to have the world's oldest religious philosophy. Even before God called Abram from Ur to be the first of His chosen people, the Hindu scriptures were studied in the Orient, these Vedas, as they are called.

Originally, Hinduism seems to have been a remnant of primitive revelation, with belief in but one God and a hint of the mystery of the Trinity. As other nations and races founded religions in India, they brought their own religious ideas with them, and mingled them with the religion there. The result is a hodge-podge of all kinds of people, calling themselves Hindus but with vastly differing beliefs.

The Brahmins or Hindu priests have endeavored to preserve the idea of one Supreme Being. The uneducated, simple people of India cling to temples and worship scores of gods.

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