

# July 4th Marks Freedom's Birth

Our country is great because of the unchanging principles found in the Declaration of Independence," declared Father James Keller, M.M., director of the Christophers. "We will keep it great only by remembering that these principles are based on belief in an Eternal God whom we serve and adore."

The priest recalled that last year the mayor of a large eastern city read the Declaration of Independence at a July 4th celebration and in his reading left out all the references to God as the source of our rights.

"He skipped over the whole basis for the document," said Father Keller. The director of the Christophers expressed his views in a statement for the Paulist Feature Service.

"Too often today in our classrooms, the Declaration of Independence is referred to as if it were only of historical importance," Father Keller said. "Sometimes it is presented only as a list of grievances against the British king."

"But the essence of the Declaration is an appeal to God, the author of life and of all human rights, to justify the rebellion," Thomas Jefferson in his first draft of the Declaration, gave full prominence to God as the source of our rights and equality. But the Congress itself went even farther.

"To Jefferson's words they added an appeal to God as 'the Supreme Judge of the World.' In the last sentence of Jefferson's draft, Congress added the phrase, 'with a firm reliance on divine Providence.' This action of our Founding Fathers shows that God and religion are the basis of our government. The Declaration of Independence answers those who would seek to banish God from our schools or any other public institutions.

"But are Americans retaining these principles of our founders? Not long ago I received a letter from a state education supervisor. He told me that in his state, 'The Declaration of Independence is presented simply as a historical document. The interpretation and philosophy therein would vary with the teacher.'"

"But Thomas Jefferson said that the principles of the Declaration are eternal. This means unchanging and not varying with each teacher. If man's rights are inalienable, their foundation must be unchanging too."

## DOINGS AT THE DALY'S

By Mary Tilly Daly

The movement to "find summer jobs for teenagers" seems to be gaining nationwide attention. Employers on farm and in factory, on the large scale, through offices and industrial organizations, are being solicited to recruit a m p t e r.

The program to include these youngsters in an effort to control juvenile delinquency. This column is in hearty agreement with the idea. Few have lived through quite a few summers with quite a few teenagers. We cannot, of course, speak as sociologists or as social workers. Our findings are more tentative than those involving thousands of teenagers. They can quote employment figures and comparable court statistics involving juveniles.

All we know is not "what we read in the papers" as Will Rogers used to say, but what we know from personal experience — and observation. Our own teenagers, through the years, have run the gamut from complete idleness to complete employment — from the day school was out in June until the day school started in September. Neither status, to our way of thinking, is ideal — but the latter is preferred.

CERTAINLY there is a happy medium. A week or so of rest — perhaps long lazy days at the beach after school is out, then a summer job. Or starting a summer job after school with the expectation of a few weeks of real vacation in late summer, just before school. Certainly, though, not three or nearly four months of utter lack of organized activity for healthy young people who are such a short way from taking their places as independent citizens.

It is about LATE-teeners, I speak here — the 18 and 19 year olds — not the freshmen and sophomores in high school. For the latter group there should be a certain amount of responsibility — baby sitting for the girls, lawn work for the boys; learning in some particular skill for both; "a preparing to start to get ready to commence" as some pundit put it. But actual vacation period for them should be extended beyond that demanded by the older teens.

When a boy or girl has finished high school and is privileged to go on to higher education, a three months' period of idleness is fantastic — unless, of course, there is a health problem. These young people stultify in an atmosphere of enforced idleness. Their energies must have an outlet and, to our way of thinking, it should be in a constructive way.

THE JOB need not be a paid one particularly if it would mean taking a much-needed opportunity from someone in more straitened financial circumstances — But it should be work that really counts.

As far as we're concerned at our house — paid jobs, they're for us! There is something about being able to do something for which people pay actual cash — good folding money — that brings with it a sense of maturity and responsibility. You "earn your keep" — one of the surest signs of being grown up.

The work may be boring, quite often it is, but that is itself a discipline as are the regular hours, the giving up of social engagements, in order to carry out the moral obligation of giving a full day's work for a full day's pay. Then, too, there is a sense of the realities of the economic world that can't be learned in the classroom. Youngsters learn a grass-roots way that ability and application count for merit; that mistakes glossed over in school or merited only a lower mark, can bring with them a train of unfortunate results in the world of business.

MY OWN summer during college work was in my "own" business. I was involved in fixing up a building at the time. Checking reports for returned checks, carefully marked "garbled" and of course it would have to be the bank's best customer. I can feel the cold chills at the consequence of that now — but it was an experience in "watch what you're doing" that will last a lifetime.

Our late-teeners are set for jobs and will undoubtedly make their own mistakes. They're ready, though, to take small positions and do the best they can, humbly grateful after the eye-opening experience of coming to the "help wanted" columns.

To paraphrase: Youth does not learn by books alone!

## Rome Prays For Lithuania

Vatican City (NC) — The countless victims of communist cruelty in Lithuania were remembered at a Mass in the chapel of the Blessed Sacrament in St. Peter's Basilica.

Appropriately, the Mass was offered shortly after the solemn ceremonies during which 19 martyrs-victims of the French Revolution were raised to the honors of the altar.

The Mass, celebrated by Archbishop Peter Canalis with Lierde, Sacristan of His Holiness Pope Pius XII and the Pope's Vicar for Vatican City, was particularly dedicated to the victims of communist mass deportations on June 14-15, 1941. It also commemorated the 15th anniversary of the communist invasion of Lithuania.

Stanislaus Girdvainis, free Lithuania's Minister to the Holy See, and diplomats of other countries overrun by communists attended the Mass, together with many refugees and exiles from Iron Curtain countries.

Archbishop Peter Canalis, who is an Augustinian, preached a sermon in which he declared that Providence always helps those who suffer persecution for Christ's sake and truth always triumphs in the end. To speed up the end of the hours of darkness, he counseled practice of the theological virtues of faith, hope and charity.

HONDURAS SHRINE Tegucigalpa, Honduras (NC) — The national shrine of Our Lady of Suyapa, patroness of Honduras, whose cornerstone was laid on December 8, 1954, the closing of the Marian year, will be completed in three years, according to the plans made known

## 'Modern' Nuns Enroll Fifty Postulants

Girard, Pa. (NC) — A new congregation of Sisters founded last year, to use a modern approach to meet the needs and problems of our present-day way of living, will open its new novitiate in Erie, Pa., in August with a class of more than 50 postulants.

The Sisters of the Divine Spirit, whose age requirements are designed to attract women with delayed vocations, have been invited to the diocese by Archbishop John Mark Gannon, Bishop of Erie.

Father Lawrence G. Lovask, S.V.D., founder of the Sisterhood, said that two Sisters Servants of the Holy Ghost will assist him in the direction of the postulants. He said that for a year the candidates will live a quasi-religious life in their temporary quarters — a remodeled three-story building in Erie — and at the same time teach in the parochial schools, conduct catechetical classes in the parishes, aid in a hospital and help with secretarial work. At the end of the first year, he said, Archbishop Gannon plans to build a convent which will serve as the motherhouse for the community.

In keeping with its modern approach, the garb of the sisterhood will change periodically to conform with the general trend in women's clothing. But it will always remain attractive, up-to-date, and yet conservative, practical and suited for the religious and social program of the Church in our country," Father Lovask said.

He said postulants and novices will wear a blue uniform consisting of a jumper and jacket and a white blouse, tan stockings and dark blue modern-style shoes. The Sisters will have a navy blue coat of American Airlines Hostess design for outdoor use, and a neat, close-fitting blue hat. The individual Sister's hair-do will be in keeping with her particular needs.

THE BLUE of the uniform will be symbolic of their devotion to our Lady, and its red trimmings and red emblem will symbolize dedication to the Holy Spirit, Father Lovask said. He said the modern garb "will make it easier for the Sisters to mingle with people without attracting attention or arousing bigotry in areas where Sisters cannot penetrate or work effectively."

He said also that the modern rule of the congregation — developed according to the spirit of the Constitutions of Father Arthur Janssen, founder of the Society of the Divine Word and of the Missionary Sisters Servants of the Holy Ghost — will not mean a relaxed rule, "but one that is modified and adapted to present-day problems, needs and conditions of life."

## Abbe Pierre Asks Labor Aid Destitute

Geneva (RNS) — Abbe Pierre, famed champion of the poor and homeless, visited headquarters of the International Labor Organization here and asked Director General David A. Morse for ILO aid to the destitute, unemployed and homeless.

MR. MORSE proposed the formation of a "foreign legion of peace" to give normally unemployed people a chance to do useful work.

The French Roman Catholic priest stressed particularly the need for housing for destitute persons and vocational training, rehabilitation for those called unemployed.

Accompanied by the Rev. Albert Leroy, S.J., an official in ILO's external affairs division, Abbe Pierre was given documentation on housing research, including studies on cooperative and self-help building methods.

Abbe Pierre also spoke to more than 5,000 people in the Geneva sports pavilion on his crusade against misery and poverty which began with his Companions of Emmaus.

He said East-West political talk concealed the fact that many millions of people today lack the minimum food and housing requirements to live decently.

The French priest also said that "10 per cent of the inhabitants of this planet dispose of 80 per cent of the earth's goods."

The future, he said, belongs not to those with superior armaments and techniques, but to those capable of giving hope, confidence and aid to the disinherited.

## DUTCH PRAYER WEEK

Amsterdam (NC) — A national prayer week will be held in the Netherlands from August 15 to 22 for the return of all people to the Church. The prayers for this return will be directed in a particular way to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

## SPORTS

By JACK BUTLER

Despite what ability you might have as a baseball player, the complete your education is the wisest of Ed-Eddie's choices.

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## State Aid To End For Africa Schools

PRETORIA, South Africa (NC) — All government subsidies to Catholic mission schools will end January 1, 1956, according to an announcement made by Dr. H.F. Verwoerd, Minister of Native Affairs, just before the parliamentary session ended here.

THIS ACTION finally implements the Bantu Education Act, which aims at educating natives for "their proper role in society" according to the government. It is one of the most drastic measures adopted by the government in its apartheid, or racial segregation, policy.

The present subsidy, following the passing of the act, is 75 per cent of the former amount. Mr. Verwoerd said this will last until March 31, 1956. Fifty per cent of the former subsidy will be paid through the end of 1956 and 25 per cent of the former subsidy for the year 1957.

Commenting on the announcement, Archbishop John C. Garner of Pretoria, said: "We are not startled by the schedule although we are surprised that the announcement has already been made."

"Although we are hardly happy about the matter, it is good to know that the ending will be gradual and not sudden. We thought that the subsidy would end altogether this year."

"We are glad to have the breathing space. However, for the Catholic Bantu (native) schools, it does not mean that the sword of Damocles has fallen. The Church has already been building for the day when it must carry the whole burden. The great test will come in 1957 when the subsidy will be cut to 25 per cent."

ARCHBISHOP GARNER continued that funds in Pretoria and other urban centers were coming in well but "it is difficult to know what will happen in purely African dioceses where the people's income is considerably lower." He added: "It is for such dioceses that the central school fund has been established in addition to a local fund in each diocese."

The African teachers have already accepted a 25 per cent salary cut, following the lowering of the subsidy to 75 per cent of the former amount.

COURIER-JOURNAL, Friday, July 1, 1955

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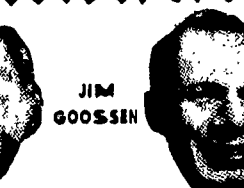
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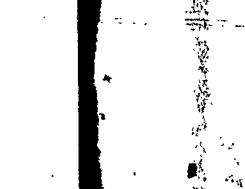
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