

### Spain Decorates Mission Priest

Tetuan, Spanish Morocco (NC) — Father Salvador Fong, Spanish Franciscan, here who recently celebrated the golden jubilee of his ordination, has been decorated by the Spanish government with the Order of Alfonso the Wise. The award was conferred in recognition of his missionary work in Northern Africa since 1908.

## GOD LOVE YOU!

By MOST REV. FULTON J. SHEEN

If God could not make a sacrifice, then there would be something in human nature which would seem to suppress even the power of God. God's love is a battlefield, a father offering his life for his child, surpassing a love which would seem to be lacking in God? Not since the beginning of the world. Our Lord was sent as the "Lamb that was slain"—offered in sacrifice by Divine love.

Christmas is the day when the infant became actual, for on that day, Mary gave to Our Lord a Body with which He could suffer for those He loved. She gave Him Hands and Feet to be nailed to the Cross; she gave Him a Heart to be opened and revealed in love by a spear; she gave Him Blood to be poured out in sweet impatience when only eight days old, and again in crimson drops in Gethsemane; she gave Him flesh that would hang against a darkened sky; she gave Him a human nature that He might be like us in all things save sin.

There was no Christmas tree at the crib. The Christ-Tree was reserved for His Death on the Cross. The withered Christmas tree that is thrown on the street in January is a symbol of Him Who was rejected on a tree.

Now you know why gifts are given at Christmas: because Mary gave Him the gift of a Body; because He, in His Divine Person gave the gift of His Life. It is this gift we want to give to Africa, India, Japan. It can be given only through the missionaries. As you see your Christmas tree wither, think of the Cross, and the love that made Christmas possible. And send a sacrifice to the Holy Father for his missionaries, through his own Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

GOD LOVE YOU to \$1.50. I requested a dime from each person I came in contact with during the course of business today. Total, 45 cents. . . to the L. Family for \$5. "We try to share our meals with your poor by dropping a coin in a small bank with each Grace before eating." . . . to R. W. S. "I have been handicapped all my life, but through Our Lord's blessing have been able to start a typing business from my own home. I am going to send you ten percent of my net earnings. This \$20 covers my first three months of business. I hope in this small way to be able to help someone else, as so many have helped me." . . . to E. G. This \$7.75 represents 25 cents saved each day last month for the mission. . . to M. W. "I am in the second grade. Please give me \$20 to the poor children." . . . to Mr. and Mrs. F. L. E. "This \$10 was given to us on our 65th wedding anniversary, and we want you to have it for the mission." . . . to Mrs. C. M. G. "I had intended to buy a piece of jewelry with this \$5, but when I realized my mind I felt much, but maybe someone will have a little bit of food he otherwise might not have."

Did you know that the National Office of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith now has an Information Center where you can obtain God Love You Medals, Our Lady of Television Statues, World Mission Rosaries, books and other literature. It is located in New York City at 365 Fifth Avenue (first floor). If you live in New York, or are planning a visit there soon, be sure to stop in. If you cannot come to New York, you may obtain Statues, Medals and Rosaries by addressing your requests and offerings to your Diocesan Director or to the National Office. The offering for a Statue is \$5.00, a Rosary \$2.00; and for the God Love You Medal \$2 (small sterling silver), \$3 (small gold-filled), \$5 (large sterling silver), and \$10 (large gold-filled).

Cut out this coupon, pin your sacrifice to it and send it to the Most Rev. Fulton J. Sheen, National Director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, 365 Fifth Avenue, New York 17, N. Y., or your Diocesan Director, Very Rev. Fr. John S. Handall, 50 Chestnut Street, Rochester, 4, New York.

## Chair Of Unity Octave Observance Explained By Graymoor Friar

The author of this article is the national director of the Chair of Unity Octave, which is observed worldwide from January 18 to 25. He is a Franciscan Friar of the Assumption from Graymoor Monastery, Garrison, N. Y.

By FATHER TITUS GRANNY, S.A.  
N.C.W.O. News Service

In the chapel behind the main altar of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome there is a most unusual relic and reliquary. The relic consists of some oak boards — the remains of the episcopal chair of St. Peter when he guided the armies of the early Church. The reliquary, designed by the chair, is a magnificent bronze composition by the Italian artist, Bernini (1662). This chair is the most precious relic of St. Peter, except for his tomb, where the Prince of the Apostles taught and guided the flock of Christ.

Above the handsome work of art, formed itself into a grandiose chair, is a brilliant sunburst and, amid clouds of gold, angels bear the pontifical tiara. In the midst of the clouds is poised a dove, the symbol of the Holy Spirit. On the back of the chair are the images of the Risen Christ, entrusting the care of the Church to Peter, who kneels in making his triple profession of love. At the foot of the reliquary, posted like guards of honor, stand four great doctors of the Church: St. Athanasius and St. John Chrysostom of the East and St. Augustine and St. Ambrose of the West, towering personalities in that illustrious period of Church development, the fourth century.

This famous Chair of St. Peter is not just another ornament in the Basilica of the Prince of the Apostles. It is a symbol of the See of Peter as the Center of Unity, the symbol of the primacy and supremacy of the saint and of his successors in the papal throne.

The Chair of St. Peter is, like the Cross of Christ, a symbol of a tremendous truth. The Cross stands for God's divine love manifested in the redemptive act of the Cross. The Chair of St. Peter symbolizes the infallibility of the Pope and his right to rule and teach the whole Church as the Vicar of Christ upon earth.

Thus the period of prayer for religious unity called the Chair of Unity Octave emphasizes this truth of the unique position and function of the See of Peter in the world.

The Chair of Unity Octave is primarily and essentially a period of prayer. For prayer is the most universal and effective means of achieving the goal of Jesus as expressed on the night of Holy Thursday: "That they all may be

one." Prayer is the indispensable means of attaining unity. For while study, missionary, labor, meetings and specializations, techniques all have their place, they must be inspired and implemented by sincere and persevering prayer.

Pope Pius XII sounded the call to the faithful for this crusade of prayer for unity when he declared: "There is nothing that conforms more closely to the will of God than the gathering together and bringing back of all souls to the one fold under one shepherd."

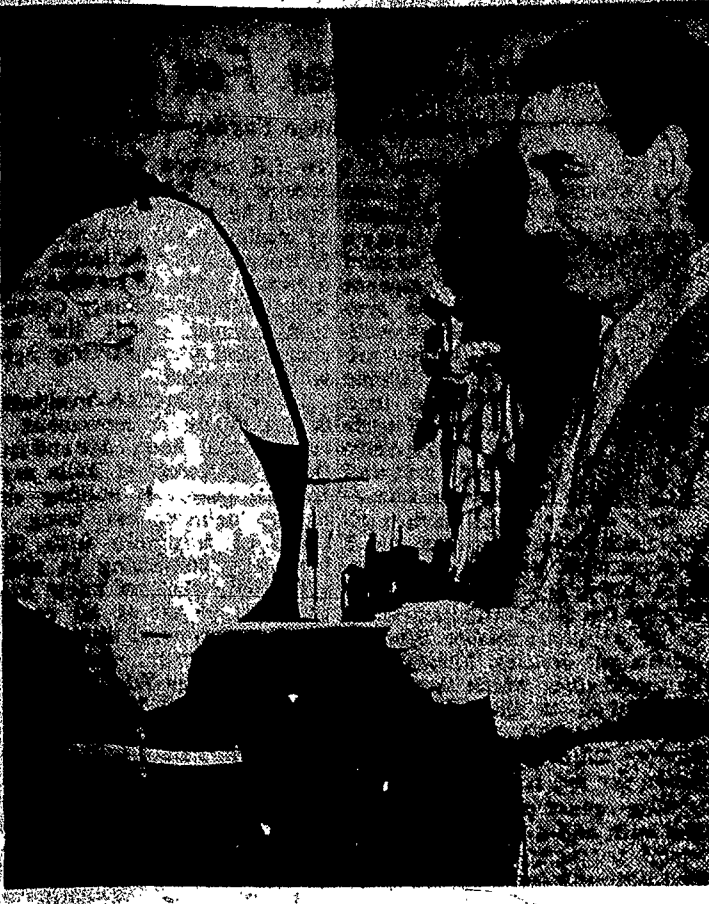
Thus it behooves the faithful, and men of good will as well, to observe the Chair of Unity Octave in January (1955) and to beseech God for the grace of religious unity upon their own souls or the souls for whom they pray.

No Catholic can be complacent in the possession of the faith or ignorant of the spiritual poverty of his neighbor. He must burn with zeal, with love, and with sympathy. He must long to bring souls to membership in the Mystical Body of Christ. His must desire to make them children of our Blessed Lady and Mother.

This is the purpose of the Chair of Unity Octave: to inspire the faithful to pray, and men of good will as well, for the blessing of religious unity upon a divided and irreligious world. The task seems an impossible one; the difficulties are mountainous, the goal never to be attained.

And yet through God's grace unity can be achieved, oneness within the fold of Christ ruled over by the Successor of St. Peter. The Holy Father today sits in the same See as the Prince of the Apostles and rules the Church just as St. Peter did nineteen centuries ago.

Unity will be accomplished in the measure that men pray for it. Many suffer and some die for this cause. But not enough pray for it. That is why the Church blesses and approves the Chair of Unity Octave as an apostolic means of bringing souls into the One Church founded by Christ for all men.



### KC Give Hospital \$800

AUBURN COUNCIL, Knights of Columbus check for \$800, a gift to Mercy Hospital, Auburn is presented to Sister M. Aurelia, hospital administrator by John Aiger, grand knight of the Auburn Knights.

### ST. BERNARD GRADUATE

## Bp. Foery Commemorates First Mass In State

Syracuse — (NC) — The direct and uninterrupted flow of faith from the Last Supper on the first Holy Thursday, to the first Mass of record in New York State in a crude Iroquois hut at Indian Hill near here on Nov. 14, 1655, to the Tercentennial Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception was the picture drawn by Bishop Walter A. Foery, of Syracuse in his memorial sermon.

An overflow crowd taxed the capacity of the cathedral for the Solemn Pontifical Mass, offered by Auxiliary Bishop David F. Cunningham of Syracuse. Before the Mass there was a parade of Catholic organizations, led by Navarre Caravan, Order of Alhambra, sponsors of the memorial.

THE CEREMONIES commemorated the first Mass in 1655, offered by Father Joseph Chaumonot, S.J., a Jesuit missionary, who traveled by canoe and overland from Canada to reach the main village of the Onondaga tribe of Iroquois at Indian Hill. Father Chaumonot's diary, fixes the time and place of the Mass.

IN HIS SERMON, Bishop Foery said: "To help us in the celebration of the 300th anniversary of the first Mass celebrated in New York State, I suggest that we place three pictures in our minds. The first is familiar to us all. It is the picture of The Last Supper. It is Holy Thursday night. The Apostles sense that something unusual is to happen. It was the day of their ordination. It was the day of the First Mass.

"The second picture which we suggest for your thought and meditation should become familiar to every Catholic resident of central New York. It is a hillside just a few miles from the village of Marius. It is a shrine which is not marked by some great basilica or magnificent cathedral, but it should be etched into the soul of every lover of the Mass.

"It was here that the black-robed Jesuit, Father Chaumonot, in obedience to the command given by the Lord on the first Holy Thursday 'Do this in Commemoration of Me,' offered the first Mass in New York State.

"We have not been drawn to this Cathedral today to be impressed only by the beauty of the ceremonies, nor to be inspired by the singing of our great Cathedral choir, nor if you will, to be impressed by the preacher. We have been attracted here because the whispered words of the Last Supper and on Indian Hill, 'This is My Body, this is My Blood,' will be uttered again

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## Rosary Pageant Featured By Dansville Auxiliary

Dansville — Portrayal of the Five Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary featured at the annual Christmas party and supper of the Ladies Auxiliary, Knights of Columbus in the K. of C. hall here, was witnessed by 100 persons.

Mrs. Rodney Schwan and Miss Marjorie Haragan directed the pageant, with Mrs. Vincent Owen acting as Narrator.

TAKING PART in the pageant were Mrs. Malcolm Dempsey, as Mary, Virginia Mother; Vincent Owen, Joseph; Fred Beckwith, Simeon the Prophet; Gail Vogt, Angel Gabriel; Graae Walker, Elizabeth; John Schwan, Child Jesus age 12 and Mary Beth Kelly, Patricia Newton, Susan Goodell, Dawn Chabowski, Colleen Rauber, Bonita Reynolds and Marie Walsh, of the kindergarten, of the Guardian Angels School, as the angels.

During the presentation, Misses Joanne Smith and Lucille Vogt sang, with Mrs. LeRoy Meyer at the piano. The program closed with choral group singing and the distributing of gifts by Santa Claus.

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