

BOOK SHELF

Soldier Of The Spirit

By Sister Margaret Teresa Nazareth College

SOLDIER OF THE SPIRIT: The Life of Charles de Foucauld, by Michel Carron. Translated by Marie-Christine Hellin. Introduction by Anne-Françoise Putnam's '56. 300 pp. \$4.00. At Trant's and all Catholic bookstores.

One of those rare souls who are suddenly and completely God's, and never go back on their love for so much as the taste of a grape or the comfort of a walk in the fresh air...

such was Charles de Foucauld, the Little Brother; Father de Foucauld, after a time, through perfect and humble obedience. He was one who baptized only two or three persons; who never had a disciple although he was a Founder; who was a spiritual director to utterly ignorant slaves and to wealthy Moslem lords and warriors.

"He had abandoned everything to follow Christ to Nazareth. But a word from Jesus was enough for Charles de Foucauld to renounce everything he had learned to love in order to find Jesus: cloistered life, solitude, knowledge (he had a scientific explorer's, a linguist's, a theologian's knowledge.)"

"HE RENOUNCED it as Jesus had renounced Nazareth... He lived close to the (French) officers and the Tuaregs of the Sahara (most dangerous) as Jesus had lived close to the centurions, the Publicans, the Samaritans, and even to repentant sinners."

Sleeping two hours, eating (and so little!) twice only in the day, seeing no visions and performing no miracles, he was yet in himself a vision of Christ to the Moslem world, which had not in centuries seen such witness, in poverty greater than the Apostles' and at his death, by his murder, his martyrdom, he compelled the Moslems to cry out that a Christian had died for all.

The gay young Hussar and wealthy Vicome had long ago broken all ties except those the missionary keeps—the interchange of letters and the one-way traffic of funds and had won over a closed world.

Here is a great career: from playboy to sober explorer of Morocco's till then unknown interior, and then out of Christian shame at the devotion of Moslems, the awakening to faith and love; the vocation to the Trappist order, then the harder vocation to live exactly as Jesus lived; hidden, scorned, the last and least; then the strange and beautiful conquest of North Africa.

CHARLES DE FOUCAULD'S name awaits beatification, his cause now rests at Rome; and all the pages of his saintly life speak the name of the One Beloved — his tender name for Christ. "At the edge of the desert."

near the oasis, Father de Foucauld chose the site where he would be most exactly suspended between contemplation and charity... Here, as in Nazareth, his vocation was to be at some distance from the village in order to be truly in the desert, facing God alone.

"But only at a little distance, so as not to be too far from those who needed him." And in the Sahara he was interrupted by the needy twenty, thirty times an hour! The news of a real Christian surely travels!

Adventure like that of Francis Xavier — names like Mogador, like the Legionnaires (who were glad of his help at death, though surprised at themselves); desert beauty, forests of palms, noble and base human nature; and great lessons in spirituality, how "to live as exactly as possible the life of Our Lord, living only from the work of one's hands, accepting no gifts (except for others), either spontaneous or solicited, and following literally all his counsels, possessing nothing, giving to everyone who asks, requiring nothing, depriving oneself of the most that is possible... to be like Him... to give Him the most... in the person of the poor." This book is worth owning and lending.

Anglican Received Into Catholic Church

London (RNS) — Canon Edward Charles Rich, well-known Anglican clergyman and author of "Spiritual Authority in the Church of England," was received into the Catholic Church here.

Twenty-four hours later, the 60-year-old convert received the Sacrament of Confirmation from Cardinal Griffin, Archbishop of Westminster. The ceremony took place in Westminster Cathedral.

It was announced that Canon Rich's son-in-law, Lord Craig-mayle, 32, also a former Anglican, would be received into the Catholic Church at Brompton Oratory on May 27. Lord Craigmayle's wife became a Catholic two years before their marriage last September.



Cardinal Visits Naval Base

Norfolk, Va. — (NC) — Nearly 500 military personnel and their dependents were confirmed in ceremonies at the gymnasium of the U.S. Naval Station here by Cardinal Spellman, Military Vicar of the Armed Forces. The prelate was greeted upon his arrival here by Captain George A. Rosso, CHC, USN, (accompanying), Deputy Chief of Navy Chaplains; and left to right; Rear Admiral I. N. Kiland, USN, Commandant Fifth Naval District; Captain Bosquet N. Wey, USN, Commanding Officer Naval Station, Norfolk, host to the Cardinal and Captain Daniel F. Meehan, CHC, USN, Fifth Naval District Chaplain.

Italy TV Winner Gives Prize To Church

Varena, Italy — (RNS) — A "small expert" may be the means of saving the ancient cathedral here which is badly in need of restoration.

He is a 42-year-old teacher named Luigi Scanagatta who won a consolation prize on the Italian TV quiz show, "Lascia o Raddoppia" (Leave It or Double It). The program is modeled on "The \$64,000 Question" program in the United States but the jackpot is much smaller — \$6,000.

MR. SCANAGATTA announced he was going to auction off his prize, a Fiat "1400" automobile, and turn the money over to the cathedral restoration fund.

Mr. Scanagatta's efforts on the quiz show attracted such attention that offerings for the cathedral began to pour in from all parts of the country. Enough money already has been received to insure the preservation of its famous bell tower.

Hawaiians Receive Habit In Syracuse

Syracuse, N. Y. — (NC) — Nine Hawaiian girls were among 16 postulants who received the Franciscan habit at ceremonies in the chapel of the Franciscan Conventual motherhouse.

Eight of the nine postulants from Hawaii had attended schools conducted by the community in the Islands.

Bishop Walter Poey of Syracuse presided at the ceremonies and addressed the postulants.

Mr. Scanagatta agreed but only on condition that any money he won be used to restore the cathedral. In three successive weekly appearances on the quiz show he answered such obscure questions as "the number of stripes on the shell of a cepea snail." WHEN HE failed to come up with the answer to the final \$6,000 question, Mr. Scanagatta became the center of a controversy in the nation's press. Newspapers accused organizers of the program with deliberately planting a tricky question to eliminate him and make room for a candidate with more "appeal" than a pretty girl. After the questions had been read and Mr. Scanagatta admitted he was stumped, the studio audience began yelling "clemenza" (clemency). Asked later by a reporter why thoughts were racing through his mind while he was in "isolation booth" waiting for a fateful question, Mr. Scanagatta replied: "Nothing much — I there was a lot of dust in the booth so I just started looking around in the corners to see if there was a spider or two."

LEPROSY Eats Away Hearts, Too

CARMEL, 15, whose leprosy doesn't show yet, is heart-sick with dread of the way leprosy has mutilated the older patients around her. MABI, 24, is heart-sick with worry over his wife and five children who have been unsupported since the day his leprosy was discovered. BUKOBA, 21, is heart-broken with fear that the maggots have given her leprosy to her own babies before they were taken from her. These are but three of the millions suffering from terrible leprosy in mission lands. Each has a gnawing heart-ache, because of leprosy. The missionary can now touch these hearts with the mercy of Christ and fill them with Christian hope, for leprosy is curable with the drug DDS. Even the worst cases can be improved. Please send whatever YOUR heart tells you, for DDS and the other medical needs of the missions, to Rev. Edward F. Ganss, S.J., M.D., THE CATHOLIC MEDICAL MISSION BOARD, Dept. X, 8 West 17th Street, New York 11, N. Y.

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