

Maine Schools Set Bible Reading

Portland — (RNS) — A set of recommended Bible readings for use in public schools is being compiled by nine Protestant, Roman Catholic and Jewish educators and religious leaders here.

Maine law makes regular reading of the Bible compulsory in public schools.

The Board of Control of Character Education and Accredited Bible Study is supervising the project under the direction of the State Department of Education.

BOOK SHELF

All Or Nothing
Sr. Margaret Teresa, Nazareth College

ALL OR NOTHING, by Murray Ballantyne. Sheed 55c. 216 pp. \$3.50. At all Catholic bookstores.

A high romance, another Divine pursuit, in which Love seeks a soul with infinite subtlety, claims it with royal disregard of its inherited place, and confirms it with that stupendous, assured touch of the Eternal Now that effaces common

passionately day by day our human calendar.

Murray Ballantyne, of Montreal's "square mile" (in New Yorkese, "Four Hundred") was received into the Church in 1933, and completed his conversion twenty full years later in an ambush, a rendezvous sovereignly and not humanly planned, on the dark mountain top of Our Lady of Salette. Long before '33, however, Love had revealed itself in the patterning of his life.

DO YOU remember sometimes that story of General Wolfe reciting the beautiful words of Gray's "Elegy" to his men and to the pitch-black waters of the St. Lawrence, as the English lay below Quebec, waiting their pre-dawn climb to the summit?

Here in Murray Ballantyne's story are words lovelier than any poem, simply because they bear witness to the Divine Presence moving beside a man in his darkness, to incarnate Love encompassed for generations on the cliffs of Montreal and triumphing over a mind utterly alienated from the ancient Church. Here is what happened:

THE QUESTING intelligence of young Murray in his teens had taken him from the family Protestantism into a deep but socially complaisant atheism, that swept him at least intellectually beyond the fixed and intense scorn of Catholicism normal in his group, and made him not infrequently the defender of some Catholic doctrine or other.

He was approaching the Faith via history, and gradually saw that if he were not a convinced atheist he would have to be a Catholic — he would have to accept all or nothing of God's Church. But he was safe from this personal and social catastrophe — there was no God.

Achieving this neat intellectual balance, he achieved also a physical and social one; he chose to offset the gay round of parties and pleasures that filled his days with a long solitary Saturday afternoon walk to and from some point of interest in the city. In Montreal, such points were, inevitably, Catholic churches.

HE HAD INTRIGUING experiences: cut his finger in a font of frozen holy water; saw people going in and out of a box, suddenly guessed it was a confession, and found himself out in the street, in terror. But one day, taking a new direction, he found no church — and he could not go home. He walked on, past his time, past his strength, and all at once heard himself cry aloud, "God, what do you want with me?"

"Without volition on my distress, standing amid strangers on a strange street, I had named my Pursuer and I had called out to Him whom I had denied. From the depths I had named His Name... In a flash I knew with whom I was dealing. It was He of whom it is said in the Canticle of Canticles: 'Draw me; we will run after thee to the odor of thy ointments.'"

But this is only the beginning of a story filled with interest. This father of seven children had once, small boy fashion, seen a



New Owasco Parish Plans Census

A FEW OF THE MANY who attended a meeting in Owasco Town Hall, Monday night, are pictured making plans to take a census of Catholic families in the Owasco area where the new Sacred Heart Parish is being organized. They are: seated (from left) Rev. Raymond J. Wahl, pastor; Ernest H. Smeaton; standing, Harry P. Flanagan, Karl J. Schreck, Joseph G. Nagle and Harold E. Bellner.

Quads Health Credited To St. Gerard Majella

Richmond — (NC) — A mother of nine children who has a rare blood condition, credits the good health of her last six children to the help of St. Gerard Majella, patron of mothers.

Mrs. Richard Shaia, 32, gave birth to quadruplets in March of this year after her doctor said that he could give her no encouragement that they would live.

SUFFERING from a rare blood condition known as ABO incompatibility, Mrs. Shaia's fourth and fifth children, a girl and boy, required three blood transfusions before they were strong enough to live.

When she first learned of the blood condition, Mrs. Shaia, a convert, began making novenas to St. Gerard Majella, a Redemptorist Brother who lived in the 18th century.

After she became pregnant for the sixth time, Mrs. Shaia learned that she could expect four babies instead of one. But her doctor was dubious about their chances for survival.

So, Mrs. Shaia began another

novena to St. Gerard Majella. "This time I said, 'All right St. Gerard, you helped us with the other babies, now see what you can do with these,'" she remarked.

Now the children are almost seven months old and have not had a day's sickness. "I think St. Gerard did very well with them," Mrs. Shaia commented.

Her husband, who is of Lebanese ancestry, owns a Richmond restaurant. They are members of St. Bridget's parish.

Chinese Bishop on Radio
New York — (NC) — Bishop Frederick A. Donaghy of Wuchow, China, who was expelled from his see by the Chinese Reds, will speak on "China, a Lesson in Fidelity" on the Church of the Air program over the CBS Radio, Sunday, Nov. 4, at 9:30-10 a.m., EST.

Chaplain O'Callahan Tells 'Franklin' Story

New York — (NC) — The only chaplain in U. S. Naval history to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor, Jesuit Father Joseph T. O'Callahan, has at last told, in his own words, the story of the aircraft carrier USS Franklin, bombed by Japanese aircraft on March 19, 1945.

His book "I Was Chaplain on the Franklin" (Macmillan Co. New York) gives a personal account of his experiences during and after the attack when explosion and fire threatened to demolish the ship. Over 1,000 of the crew were killed and wounded.

Other persons have recorded the story of his conspicuous gallantry, and a motion picture has been made of the Franklin's story. This is the first time the story has been written by the chaplain.

Teachers: But your essay on "My Mother" is exactly the same as your brother's?" Lord's, Murray Ballantyne's wife's, and Our Lady's. Larry: That's right. We have exactly the same mother.

Italian Political Party Pledges Christian Program

Trent — (NC) — Members of the Italian Christian Democratic party, at the close of their national convention here, reasserted their will to remain united and to pursue a Christian social program.

Immediately after publication of the conclusions, spokesmen for the leftist Socialist party expressed their displeasure over the fact that the convention had not succeeded in creating an opening to the left.

The concluding motion of the Christian Democratic convention, delegates confirmed the faithfulness of the members to the Christian social doctrine that inspires the program of the party.

COURIER-JOURNAL, Friday, November 2, 1955



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Today is All Souls Day. What did you do to remember your own beloved at this time? Why not enroll them today. We have a beautiful new PURGATORIAL MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATE for perpetual enrollment of the deceased — it is a work of art suitable for framing. A lovely way to tell friend or relative that you remembered their beloved dead. The candles share in the 15,000 Masses offered each year for our members by our missionaries in the Holy Land — a daily Mass at the Vatican. They are also remembered in the prayers and sacrifices of thousands of priests, sisters and brothers in our mission lands. Individuals enrolled perpetually, \$20. Yearly enrollment, \$1. Family enrollment \$5 yearly, and \$100 for perpetual.

MAKE YOUR WILL GOD'S WILL
REMEMBER HIS NEAR EAST MISSIONS

HUMBLE HANDMAID
That's the life SISTER BESSALISA in India wants for herself. That is if we can find a generous heart to sponsor her during her two years of training. We need \$150 each year to provide the basic essentials — food, education, uniforms, etc. Her parents cannot help. Won't you open your heart to this young girl who is eager to serve Her Lord. Send it in any installment to suit your own convenience.

Your MASS OFFERINGS are the sole support of our priests in these poverty-stricken lands. Father Kennedy spent the past two years there and he tells how heartbreaking it was as he visited each mission, to tell the good priests that he hadn't enough for all. Won't you help them with your charitable Mass intentions. Masses are said almost immediately.

JOIN ONE OF OUR MISSION CLUBS. MEMBERS GIVE A DOLLAR MONTHLY. IT WORKS WONDERS.

YOUTHFUL CAMPAIGNER
Many young politicians have been heavily engaged in these months promoting their party and candidates. KURIAN is a young lad in far-off India who yearns to "campaign" for Christ among the millions of pagans there. His poor parents cannot afford to give him the education needed. Will you help to train him by sending the \$100 we need each year for the six years of training required? You will share in his lifelong apostolate and prayers.

STRINGS OF LOVE bind together hearts that beat in sympathy. Have you a "stringless gift" to send to the Holy Father today that he can use to meet emergency appeals from the missions. It will tell of your sympathy for his loving fatherly care of the poor in the Near East countries.

CHRISTMAS AROUND THE CORNER
Don't wait 'til the last minute to get those gifts. Line up your list now. Why not do it all from your armchair. We have a lovely new CHRISTMAS CARD. It's so artistic your friends and relatives will want to keep it as a permanent festive ornament. You'll want one yourself when you see it. It will say that you remembered them at Christmas time with a Mass by a missionary in the Near East.

Or that you gave in their name a sacred article to a mission chapel — such as a Mass bell \$5; vestments \$50; altar stone, \$10; year's supply of candles \$20; chalice \$40.

FATHER KING is working among almost 900,000 Arab refugees from Palestine. Now he must be studying what he can do for them at Christmas. Can't you send him a FOOD PACKAGE (\$10) for a refugee family. One will last them all through Christmas week. He and they will bless you.

FATHER EUGENE in Jerusalem has a million and one needs for your monthly dollar. PALACE OF GOLD, our mission club for the care of the abandoned old folks in the Holy City. Won't you send it today?

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