

New Fasting Rules Increase Communicants

Washington (NC)—The new rules concerning the Eucharistic fast have met with an enthusiastic response from the clergy and laity throughout the country, reports from widely separated areas indicate.

A spot survey conducted by the Catholic Review, Baltimore archdiocesan newspaper, revealed that the number of communicants in the archdiocese has increased tremendously since the new fasting regulations were issued.

Msgr. Louis J. Mendels, pastor of St. Alphonsus Church in Baltimore, said his noonday Mass the past week had Communion attendance equal to those of Christmas.

Noon-Time Gains In St. Louis

St. Louis (NC)—Daily Communicants at noon-time Masses in this archdiocese have more than doubled since Pope Pius XII announced the new eucharistic fasting regulations March 25, the St. Louis Review, archdiocesan newspaper, reported.

The paper checked with all downtown and suburban parishes where the noon Masses were offered. The inquiry showed that in all cases daily Communicants had doubled at least and—in the case of the St. Louis Cathedral—has tripled.

Downtown Crowd In Los Angeles

Los Angeles (NC)—Mass and Communion have become a daily noon hour routine to twice as many downtown workers here since issuance of the new Eucharistic fast laws.

Downtown pastors report a marked increase in the number of communicants at the three churches here having noon Mass.

Our Lady Chapel, in the heart of the hotel and department store district, has 2,000 Communions now instead of the usual 700, since the announcement of the new fasting laws.

Cardinal Mooney Urges Battle Against Obscene Literature

Detroit (NC)—Cardinal Mooney has lauded the Detroit Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women for their efforts against indecent literature and urged them not to relent in their battle against obscene publications.

THE ARCHBISHOP of Detroit spoke to more than 1,000 women at the annual convention of the ACCW. While commending the women for their drive against pornography, Cardinal Mooney cautioned that results in this sphere have to be achieved by persuasion.

"The recent Supreme Court decision shows that we cannot rely on legal measures," the Cardinal said. He was referring to a Supreme Court decision, handed down in March of this year. It voided a Michigan law which made it a crime to sell books con-

Catholic Role In Surplus Food Cited

Washington, D.C.—(RNS)—Catholic Relief Services-National Catholic Welfare Conference distributed nearly one billion pounds of surplus government food to needy persons abroad in the nine months that ended March 31, 1957, the Department of Agriculture disclosed in a report here. This was more than the combined distribution of all other religious and voluntary agencies.

A DEPARTMENT spokesman said the Catholic agency has been more energetic than others in claiming surplus commodities which are available to all voluntary groups on an equal basis.

The NCWC agency received 996,892,000 pounds of surplus foodstuffs during the period from July 1, 1956, to March 31, 1957.

Fordham University Jesuit

'Average Russian Not Pro-Communist'

Tiffin, Ohio (NC)—The average Russian is not a communist and has no sympathy with a philosophy alien to his every instinct.

This is the view of Jesuit Father Walter C. Jaskiewicz, director of Fordham's Institute of Contemporary Russian Studies, expressed in a lecture here.

Father Jaskiewicz said the Russians are communism's first victims, not its exponents.

They are the allies of the Free World, the priest said. He urged the Free World to concentrate on getting messages to them.

The need, he said, arises from the fact that under communism every individual must be properly "conditioned" or liquidated.

Father Jaskiewicz said that the communist condi-



FATHER JASKIEWICZ
'First Victims'

spirational, symbolic and propaganda.

The Fordham priest said at least 2,500,000 economically unproductive secret police must be maintained to protect the Moscow regime.

He insisted on the systematic understanding of man for man as the key to peace.

"Only when communism as an ideology is rejected unconditionally will there be real peace," he said.

Medical Sisters Report On Work

Philadelphia (RNS)—The Medical Mission Sisters, who staff 26 medical centers around the world, cared for more than 600,000 patients in the past year, performed 17,524 operations and had 10,454 maternity cases, the motherhouse at Fox Chase here reported.



Good Friday

Kissing the Crucifix in honor of the Christ who died to save the world highlights Catholic devotion in all churches on this day of Good Friday, the anniversary of our Lord's death on the cross. This photo taken in Corpus Christi Church depicts the Good Friday "Adoration of the Crucifix" with parishioner Mrs. Patrick Hayes and altar boys (left to right) Peter Bayer, Richard Cowley and Lawrence Unger. (Photo by Paul Contestable — Courier Journal)

Anniversary Of Fatima Apparition Slated In May

Fatima, Portugal (NC)—The 40th anniversary of the first apparition of Our Lady to the children of Fatima will be celebrated here on May 13 by a Portuguese national pilgrimage.

The date of the pilgrimage is also the 40th anniversary of the episcopal consecration of His Holiness Pope Pius XII. This anniversary will also be celebrated by the pilgrims.

Led by His Eminence Manuel Cardinal Goncalves Cerejeira, Patriarch of Lisbon, the pilgrims will come from all over Portugal to the shrine.

BOOK SHELF

The Way Of The Cross

Sr. Margaret Teresa, Nambour, Calicut
Excerpts from Paul Claudel's Stations, as translated by St. Mary David, SSND, in Coronado, and as translated by Rev. John Burke, O.P., in 1927—with a concluding thought from Cardinal Newman's second Way of the Cross:

- I. "I find no cause in the man," says Pilate. "Is a thing is absurd. But since you wish, let him die. Take him. Behold the man!"
 - II. Dost thou go forth to bear it, Savior, Christ, alone? With patience may I bear what share thou givest me. Each one must bear the cross ere cross his comfort be.
 - III. What sayest thou, O Lord, at this thy first of falls? There is nought but to go straight on, to learn pain stone by stone. O save us from that first sin that takes one by surprise!
 - IV. Mary's soul leaps out to him like a soldier braving death... She stands erect before God and gives him her soul to read...
 - V. The moment comes when we cannot go on, And then indeed we join thee, and are used Like Simon — lest the precious weight be lost.
 - VI. Veronica, teach us to conquer our fear of watching eyes... Each Christian, all unfit, is likeness true of Christ; Let him guard his every step, since he is a sign...
 - VII. The soul itself all at once begins to falter Midway in this our life... for the road is long. Save us, O Lord, from the fall of weariness!
 - VIII. A few poor women in tears, and their babes about them, And we — Let us look and listen; here Jesus speaks.
 - IX. "I have fallen again, and this time it is the end." No—Save us, O Lord, from the last fall which is despair— A third time fallest thou, but on Calvary's height!
 - X. They have left you nothing, Lord, they have taken all, Thy vesture fast to the flesh—but the scarlet blood remains...
 - XI. They have tied the feet of the Lamb, they have fastened God... This God is enough for me. Who is held by just four nails.
 - XII. His Mother he sees no more, and His Father abandons him... Thou art athirst, my Lord? It is on me thou callest?
 - XIII. Here is the end of the Passion; but the Compassion goes on... He who died before all, on his Mother's bosom lies stilled. At this point endeth the Cross and beginneth the Tabernacle.
 - XIV. From the altar where thou dost hide thyself, come, O Lord, See how our hearts are wide, wide open to thee!
- Jesus, when He was nearest to His overwhelming triumph, seemed to be farthest from triumphing. When He was nearest to entering upon His kingdom, and all power in heaven and earth, He was lying dead in a cave of rock... Make us to trust in thee, O Jesus... Make us sure, O Lord, that the greater in our distress, the nearer we are to thee; the more men forget us, the more thou dost keep us in mind; the more they abandon us, the closer wilt Thou bring us to Thyself.



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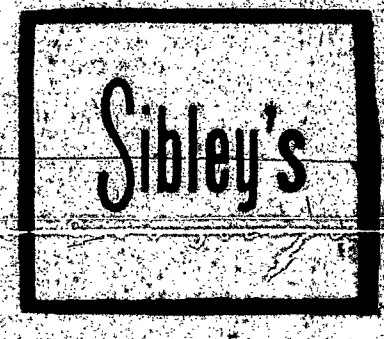
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