

BOOK SHELF

Sound of a Distant Horn

St. Margaret Teresa, Nazareth College
SOUND OF A DISTANT HORN by Sven Stolpe. Sheed 57. 301 pp. \$3.95. For adult reading. At all Catholic bookstores.

On April 17 a new voice began to be heard in English, that of Sven Stolpe, a Catholic historian and novelist and newspaper editor of Sweden, in his first translated novel, *Sound of a Distant Horn*.

Stolpe has been likened to Maguire and Greene: let us declare an unlikely, a hope-mysticism rather than a sin-mysticism, goodness as a triumphant tendency even in characters most ignorant of themselves.

The story passes from the macabre ugliness of human ways, torturing the mind of a sick and lonely man in the world of the city (Paris), to the Easter triumph of Christ in the soul at death, and it does so by the techniques of prime story telling.

THE THREE MEN who come to know themselves in the course of events—the doctor, the priest, his doctor Lebrun, and the eloquent and handsome Basque priest who is Lebrun's classmate of long ago—are revealed in a perfection of naturalness.

They have shaped life by the self-deceit common to mortals; these are not demonic sinners, but men victimizing themselves and those they love by the slow accretion of misjudgment, suspicion, failure to preserve a loyal mind.

All three have glimpsed the towers of peace, all grope their way toward it. Karsdorf steadily, educated by pain; the priest in an agony that almost kills; for vanity has permitted almost complete deception; the doctor in violent repulsion.

The "angels of the piece" are memorable: two saintly priests, one a young Don Bosco until his pretensions to intellectuality.

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Diamonds of Distinction

The Church in Formosa

Many Converts, Schools Few

Taipei, Formosa — (NC) — A remarkable increase of Catholics, but few educational institutions under her auspices is the situation facing the Church here in Formosa.

On the one hand the number of Catholics has grown in ten years from slightly over ten thousand to 100 thousand. On the other hand, in the archdiocese and three apostolic prefectures on the island have only two regular middle schools and one girls' junior English college.

THE SCARCITY of Catholic schools and colleges, however, has little effect on the tempo of student conversions. In Taipei, the capital, there have been 170 conversions among undergraduates of the secular universities and colleges during the last year. Of the 15,000 students in the five universities and colleges in and near Taipei, 725 are Catholics. Meanwhile the 100 thousand Catholics of Formosa constitute but one per cent of the total 10 million population.

WHILE THERE is no Catholic university or college in Taipei, there is considerable effort expended in the apostolate among college and university undergraduates. There are two Chinese secular priests, 14 Jesuit Fathers, and five Benedictine Sisters attached to the faculties and in the staffs of secular institutions of higher education.



Ex-GI's To Be Ordained
Among the Paulist Fathers to be ordained on May 11 by Bishop James H. Griffiths in New York are five veterans of service in the U. S. Armed Forces. Here future Paulist Fathers are pictured in front of St. Paul's College, Washington, D. C., where they completed a six-year course of studies.

Daily Mass Calendar

- Sunday, April 26 — Low Sunday (white), Gloria, Creed, Easter Preface.
 - Monday, April 27 — St. Mark, evangelist (red), Gloria, 2nd prayer* of St. Peter, Creed, Preface of Apostles.
 - Tuesday, April 28 — St. Catherine of Siena, virgin (white), Gloria, Easter Preface.
 - Wednesday, May 1 — St. Joseph the Workman (white), Gloria, Creed, Preface of St. Joseph.
 - Thursday, May 2 — St. Athanasius, bishop (white), Gloria, Creed, Easter Preface.
 - First Friday, May 3 — Finding of the Holy Cross (red), Gloria, 2nd prayer* of Marys, Creed, Preface of the Holy Cross.
 - First Saturday, May 4 — St. Monica, widow (white), Gloria, Easter Preface.
- *omitted at High Mass.

Censorship Seen Mark Of Moral Failure In Society

Louisville, Ky. — (NC) — "Censorship is a mark of moral and intellectual failure in some element of a society," Dr. Vernon J. Bourke, of St. Louis University told a session of the Catholic Library Association's annual convention here.

Dr. Bourke defined censorship as "the practice of restricting the public expression of thoughts, feelings, or opinions, when that expression is considered by the censoring agency to be contrary to the public or private good."

DR. BOURKE said that most Americans will grant the right of Catholic authorities to regulate for Catholics the literature which is "appropriate to their religious and moral convictions."

But non-Catholic Americans are not prepared to accept or to help enforce censorship, he continued. It is important to understand that "our society is pluralistic; it lacks unity of moral and religious conviction," he said.

Dr. Bourke declared that in this country there is "a widespread identification of moral and religious pluralism with democratic freedom."

As a result, he continued, "some American speakers and writers on censoring view it as an omnipresent threat to diversity of opinion. More than that, they consider the censor in any form as a challenge to hard-won American freedom... They think that Catholics cannot be trusted to keep alive the liberties essential to American democracy."

DR. BOURKE examined three areas of American life in which censoring is attempted: 1) government restraint of news; 2) restriction of communist and other ideological material which is considered objectionable; 3) the censoring of allegedly obscene and crime-inciting materials.

"It is my contention that we do not want either federal censorship, or local censorship or censorship by any minority group, such as a church or patriotic organization, in any of these areas," Dr. Bourke said. "My general reason for this position is that I think censoring does more harm than good."

HE DECLARED that if there is "undue restriction of news about government activities, Catholics should be opposed to such an abuse... Democracy requires an informed citizenry."

Speaking of unbecoming literature and books "which attack our very way of life,"

he asked: "Who is to decide on the list of objectionable books? ... Suppose a group of men in some community decides that any mention of Catholicism in a history text is inelegant factism? What prohibition would we have against such private censoring?"

Dr. Bourke concluded that American Catholic leaders of opinion "should cherish the essential liberties of the democratic way of life as much and even more than others... Let us not suggest to our fellow citizens that we love censoring for its own sake. Censorship is not an act of positive perfection, but a mark of moral and intellectual failure in some element of a society."

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Martin Luther Film Violates TV Code, Says Newspaper

Chicago — (NC) — The controversial film "Martin Luther," presented here (April 7) on television station WKWB, violates the television code of the National Association of Radio and Television Broadcasters (NARTB), a Catholic paper has charged.

The charge was made in a front page editorial in *The New World*, newspaper of the Chicago archdiocese. The paper said that an NARTB booklet, entitled *The Television Code*, states the following as one of its principles: "Religious programs should be presented respectfully and accurately and without prejudice or ridicule."

THE NEW WORLD editorial said the Martin Luther film fails to abide by this principle. The film had previously been canceled by station WGN-TV. The film was rescheduled by station WGBS after Magr. Edward M. Burke, chancellor of the Chicago archdiocese, stated there would be no official protest to its showing.

The *New World* stated it was not protesting the showing of the film, but was expanding on the reasons why it should not be shown. The editorial stated in part:

with historical facts, and the evil elements of Luther's life are just as accessible to the producers of this film as were the real or imaginary abuses in the Catholic Church of his time.

"It seems to us that the producers of the film were bound in conscience to an honest portrayal of the entire situation, and that a totally one-sided and sometimes dishonest portrayal cannot be regarded as a public service."

IN ADDITION to the editorial the *New World* had a full-page review of the Martin Luther film. "Even the fairly well informed person," the review said, "who may have seen this film, regrets that what might have been a film presentation of the Luther of history, which is, to say the least, out of harmony with the present-day accepted criteria of historical studies and out of harmony with the findings of continuing historical research."

Diplomat Seeks Cure At Lourdes

Paris — (NC) — The first secretary of the Indian embassy in Great Britain, Atli Kumar Mukerji, accompanied by his wife, stopped here briefly on his way to Lourdes in hope of a miraculous cure.

The Indian diplomat, aged 41, was pronounced incurable by physicians in Great Britain. Having heard of the miracles of Lourdes, he decided to make a pilgrimage to seek the intercession of the Blessed Virgin to regain his health.

Albany Plans Home For Aged

Albany, N.Y. — (RNS) — Plans were announced here by Bishop William A. Scully of Albany for the construction of a \$1,000,000 home for the aged and convalescent.

The 90-bed structure is to be operated as an affiliate of St. Peter's Hospital and will be built on a four-acre site adjacent to it. The hospital is administered by the Sisters of Mercy.

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