

Ailing Youth

Pope Blesses Comedian Red Skelton's Son

By FATHER JAMES L TACEK (Radio, N. C. W. C. News Service)

Vatican City — (NC) — Pope Plus XII gave Richard Skelton, nine-year-old son of the American comedian Red Skelton, a welcome usually reserved for heads of states when he received the youngster in a private audience here.

The boy, who has a form of leukemia, was in Rome with his parents and sister on a tour of Europe.

COMING OUT OF the audience, Red Skelton, obviously moved, said:

"It was the clearest and most exciting thing I've ever done in my life. It was like walking into a room of fresh flowers."

The Pope, who knew of little Richard's condition, and who had read of the family's hope of being received by the Pontiff, shifted his work schedule back a half hour to receive the Skeltons.

When the family was ushered into the room, the Pope invited Richard to sit in a small chair beside his own, back of his desk. This is the place usually reserved for the world's important personages when they visit the Pope. Richard's sister, Valentina, was given a seat to her brother's left.

THE CHILDREN and the Pope conversed easily. The Holy Father asked them about their trip, and what they did at home in the United States.

Not once did the Pope mention the boy's illness, but at one point in their conversation he told Richard, "Life is eternal, because of God."

He said that "Death never separates members of a family. They will live together for eternity in heaven."

At another time in their talk, Richard asked the Pope: "How's your son's lip?"

He referred to a slight swelling of the Pontiff's lip after a tooth extraction a few days earlier.

Laughing, the Pope responded: "It's nothing."

At the end of the audience, Richard received a silver medal as a souvenir of his visit.

After the audience, Richard, who had been lively and talkative before, was quiet and quiet. When he and his family stopped nearby for breakfast later, he kept turning the medal over in his hand.

"I wasn't scared," he said, but his sister Valentina admitted that she had been.

Red Skelton is reported to have been baptized a Catholic, but was not reared in the faith. His children, who were baptized Protestants, attend St. Martin of Tours parish school in Los Angeles.

Red said he sends his children to a Catholic school because "they are the only ones fighting communism."

LIKE ANY PROUD father, the comedian talked about how deeply religious his son is, and how he wants to become a priest "when he grows up."

The family embarked on the extended tour of Europe because Richard had expressed the desire to see the many places he had always heard about and because doctors advised the family that they should do something "when he grows up."

Translation was made by Father C. Ramez, missionary of the Sacred Heart.



Vatican City — (NC) — Pope Plus XII places his hand on the head of leukemia stricken Richard Skelton, 9-year-old son of American comedian Red Skelton. Shown with the boy is his sister, Valentina Maria. In blessing the Skelton family, the Pope asserted that his blessing was "particularly directed," at Richard. The Skelton family is on a tour of Europe, which will include visits to the Shrine of Lourdes and to Italian stigmata priest, Padre Pio.

Richard has already lived six months beyond the time expected by doctors.

to distract the boy and themself from the tragedy that hangs over them.

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Bible Translated Into Gilbertine

Tarawa, Gilbert Islands — (NC) — The Gilbert Islands mission has published the first translation of the New Testament into Gilbertine, the language common to the natives of these west central Pacific islands.

Translation was made by Father C. Ramez, missionary of the Sacred Heart.

Freed Priest Eyes Return To Orient

Hong Kong — (RNS) — The Rev. Charles J. McCarthy, S.J., of San Francisco, recently released from four years imprisonment in Communist China, left here for home saying he hoped to return to the Orient to work among the Chinese people.

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South African Bishops Defy Racial Ban

Cape Town, South Africa — (NC) — The Catholic Hierarchy of South Africa has defied the country's new church segregation law by ordering that "Catholic churches must and shall remain open to all without regard to their racial origin."

IN A LETTER read at all Sunday Masses the nation over, South African bishops stated that they alone have the power "to decide on admittance of persons to Catholic places of worship," and that they therefore "take full responsibility" for maintaining interracial churches.

The so-called church clause of the Nationalist government's Native Laws Amendment Act — which is now the law of the land — empowers the government under certain conditions to ban Natives from attending churches in white urban areas.

THE CATHOLIC Hierarchy's declaration stated: "No other authority than the Hierarchy has competence to decide on admittance of persons to Catholic places of worship. Catholic churches must and shall remain open to all without regard to their racial origin."

Montreal Cardinal Visits Midland

Midland, Ont. (NC) — Cardinal Leger, Archbishop of Montreal, led a provincial setting pilgrimage of 400 persons to the Canadian martyr's shrine here.

This was the first time an Archbishop of Montreal headed such a group, and the first time such a large and representative Quebec pilgrimage retraced the steps of pioneer French missionaries in the area.

U.S. Airmen Join English Pilgrimage

London (NC) — U.S. Airmen formed a guard of honor and carried the canopy over the Blessed Sacrament during an annual pilgrimage of Catholic mothers to Walsingham, English Marian shrine.

POPE'S PLEA

The Holy Father's recent exhortations on the missions is the most forceful challenge we can recall his ever making to us Catholics. He wastes no words in telling us it's OUR SERIOUS RESPONSIBILITY TO HELP THE MISSIONS—through prayer, more vocations and our material help. He makes it plain that the MINIMUM of thanks WE OWE GOD FOR THE PRICELESS GIFT OF FAITH is to make SERIOUS SACRIFICES. He points out that this is THE MEASURE OF OUR CATHOLICITY and that we are "NOT TRULY FAITHFUL AND DEVOTED" if we are not equally devoted to SPREADING THE FAITH EVERYWHERE.

Sacrifice implies "giving up" something so that we "feel" if our missionaries are on the very front lines carrying Christ's banner in our name. We must back them up. They look to the Holy Father for help to carry on the battle. He has only one way to help them. He has only one way to give them the means. But our great Pope needs our support constantly—not only now and then—because every day pleas from missionaries all over the world reach his desk. Do you MAKE A HABIT of sending "STRINGLESS GIFTS" REGULARLY TO THE HOLY FATHER? With these he can meet emergency appeals at once, when they are needed most. Won't you NOW?

MASS OFFERINGS SUPPORT OUR PRIESTS. HELP THEM.

STURDY STANDARD-BEARERS That's what these five girls will be when finishing their two years in training—SISTER MILITEGZZA in Ethiopia, SISTER LELLA in Egypt and in India SISTERS ANNE PAUL, ANNE JOSEPH, and MARY GRACE. But first we must find someone to give each girl \$150 each year for the cost of her training.

REMEMBER THE HOLY FATHER'S MISSIONS IN YOUR WILL.

AMAZING GROWTH IN EGYPT The good Bishop reports to the Holy Father that in ten years the faithful in his diocese have doubled. Despite their poverty and the diocese's lack of resources he was forced to embark upon new projects to keep pace. The people in Beni Mohamed gave generously and worked to start a chapel but he must find \$2,000 for materials to finish.

FROM LEBANON TO INDIA Come appeals for three hopeful lads of poor families—MEHANNA, ABRAHAM and EAPEN. The seminary needs \$100 a year for each during his six in training. Can you help? Send it in any installments.

FATHER KING HAS TROUBLES In fact, 820,000. That's how many Palestinian Arabs are refugees from Israel. He gives out the Holy Father's charity to them in six Middle East lands. With a lovely HOLY LAND ROSARY he thanks you for each \$10 gift (food pack) you send.

Send all communications to: CATHOLIC NEAR EAST WELFARE ASSOCIATION 480 Lexington Ave. at 46th St. New York 17, N. Y.

FRANCIS CARDINAL SPELLMAN, President

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Birth Control Undermines Society

Birth control, which demands a love that rises above the ordinary. "The Church, however," he added, "has never taught that the Holy Spirit automatically communicates the grace of chastity to all married couples, when the necessity for limiting or spacing become obvious."

Modern Revolt Against Sanctity Of Family Cited

Bordeaux, France — (RNS) — A Catholic educator voiced alarm here over the "modern rebellion" against religious and secular laws upholding the sanctity of marriage. Dr. Gabriel Madinier, a member of the faculty at Lyon University, told the French Semaines Sociales (Social Weeks) that one of the causes of the revolt is the "modern cult of happiness based on pleasure."

Teacher Under Fire

Tito Reds Score Marriage In Church

Belgrade — (RNS) — A Communist newspaper has demanded the dismissal of a woman teacher in an elementary school in Vojvodina province because she was married in a government-controlled Association of Teachers immediately convened a special meeting at which she was ordered expelled from the group and a letter sent to local authorities requesting them to take other "appropriate steps."

Cardinal Spellman Aids Blind Vets In Korea

Seoul, Korea — (NC) — A village for blind Korean veterans, five miles south of here, now has its own church. The idea was the idea of Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York, and President of the National Association of the Blind.

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She Saw Our Lady

An historic photograph of St. Bernadette Soubirous, the French peasant girl to whom the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared 18 times in 1858 at Massabielle, near Lourdes. Calling for penance and prayer for the conversion of the world, Our Lady identified herself to St. Bernadette, saying, "I am the Immaculate Conception." St. Bernadette entered the Sisters of Charity of Nevers in 1866, died in 1879, and was canonized in 1885. (NC Photos)

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Catholic College In New York

New York — girls met on the corner of Nassau Street, of New York's finest. They began immediately to assemble their gear. Pile of wood and metal the college. The new requires speakers.

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Advertisement for B. Forman Co. CULVER-RIDGE. Features a large illustration of a group of people walking and shopping, with the text 'Open Saturdays'. Below the illustration is a circular logo with the letter 'F'. The text describes the store's atmosphere and location.

Advertisement for TROTT BROS. CO., INC. featuring 'Flowers in Stone' and 'Fine Quality Monuments'. Includes a small illustration of a monument and contact information for William J. Schnecky and Robert F. Schnecky at 1120 Mt. Hope Ave., Cr. 3-3221.

Advertisement for AMOCO 'Greater' motor oil. Features a large illustration of a leaded gas pump nozzle with 'LEAD' written on it, and a can of 'Greater' oil. Text includes 'FINE IN CABLE', 'FOUL IN MOTORS', and 'NO INCREASE IN PRICE'. American Oil Company logo is at the bottom.

Advertisement for Near East Missions. Features a large illustration of a man in a long robe, likely a missionary. Text includes 'POPE'S PLEA', 'MASS OFFERINGS SUPPORT OUR PRIESTS. HELP THEM.', and 'STURDY STANDARD-BEARERS'. It lists names of missionaries and their needs, and provides contact information for Francis Cardinal Spellman and the Catholic Near East Welfare Association at 480 Lexington Ave., New York 17, N. Y.

Advertisement for 'WEE' brand products. Includes the text 'WEE', 'CLOSED', and 'BLACK PLAS AND POS HOUSE N'. It also features a small illustration of a house and the name 'WEE' in a stylized font at the bottom.