

Weeks In Europe

God—a devotion which has survived the sweep and changes of centuries.

The vast church of the monasteries, its gold walls reflecting the amber glow of myriads of candles, is the scene for young Spanish lovers to pledge their marriage vows. Every day, scores of weddings are scheduled at the main altar and the flanking chapels.

The newly wedded couples then spend their honeymoon in nearby hotels or apartments perched at the summit of the huge mile-high boulders of the Montserrat mountain range.

Before leaving Spain, we asked, "What is there to the story we get in America that Spain persecutes Protestants?"

Our special Spanish guide, Rosemarie Fernandez, puzzled.

But when a flat, wide, desert black landscape, the hills of a sketchy, the hills where to produce the curlew, the water men vendit easement sell them. So for a priest, priestess (\$300) I asked, "What is the story we get in America that Spain persecutes Protestants?"

He replied, "Why, here you can believe as you wish. There are many Protestants here. I have friends who are Protestants and they are not persecuted."

"It is true," she admitted, "there are very few Protestants here. Most everybody wants to be Catholic."

"I must tell you, though," she apologized, "that Spain is not like America. In Spain we have some who are good Catholics, but then there are some that are not so good."

And our American pilgrims informed her that maybe Spain is very much just like America in that respect.

Beneath the unrelenting rays of a brilliant sun we caught our first glimpse of the deep blue Mediterranean. We were headed for Rome as this summer's torrid heat wave began to scorch its record across southern Europe.

Luckily, our schedule called for a two days rest at Nice, with palm trees, sea, pebble beach, and deliciously cool water directly across from our hotel.

After Sunday (June 30) Mass at the Dominican Church of the Blessed Sacrament, we rode through the cool green hillsides called "Sea Alps" with their tiny towns perched at the top.

AT VENCE, about fifteen miles from Nice, we were able to see (but not enter; visitors on Tuesday and Thursday only) the radically modern Dominican nun's chapel designed by the French artist Henri Matisse.

The white walls with their narrow long windows gleam from the Vence deep green hillside.

Inside, a white marble slab placed atop a circular marble column serves as the chapel's altar. Outline drawings, floor to ceiling, represent the Blessed Virgin, the Christ Child, St. Dominic, and the stations of the Cross.

It is said that the chapel represents the faith of Matisse who returned to the religion of his childhood shortly before death, and often strongly criticized, modern art designs in painting and sculpture.

AND NO matter where you go, you are bound to meet up with the faith and zeal of the Irish. At the Dominican church in Nice it was Father William McCarthy of Dublin who fixed the altar for my Mass, and told me to be sure to take at least a long distance look at the island of St. Honorat off the coast near Cannes.

Pittsburgh Chancery Nears Completion

Pittsburgh (NC)—In the redevelopment of Pittsburgh's Golden Triangle, a new, five-story office building is nearing completion. It will be known as the Diocese of Pittsburgh building and will house virtually all of the diocesan offices.

The building, in the heart of the city's downtown section, also will provide additional facilities for nearby St. Mary's Church.

The first floor of the building will have an auditorium seating 500 persons where Masses will be offered on Holy days to accommodate the overflow crowds at St. Mary's.

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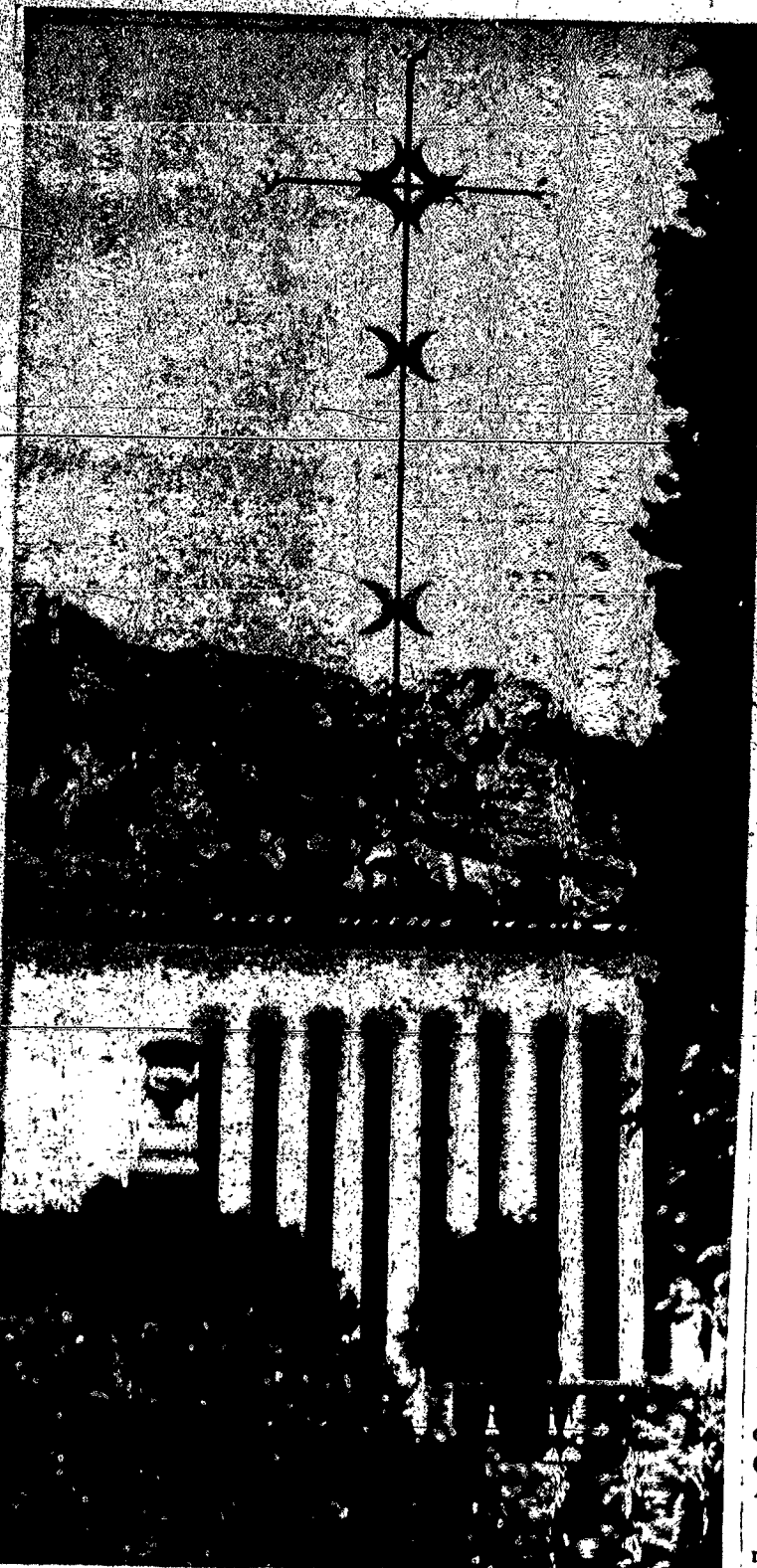
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White walls of Dominican convent gleam from French Riviera hillside at Vence. Chapel is ultra-modern, designed by famed artist Henri Matisse.

And do you know why? That is the spot, once called "Monks' Island," where St. Honorat established his monastery and sent missionaries to convert the hillside people of the mainland.

One monk ventured to go a greater distance, and he eventually went all the way to Erin.

Yes, we saw the home of the Aga Khan (he was near death at that time), and the homes of famous actors and political figures along the Riviera, but we can't forget that a Riviera island is also famous as the monastic home of Ireland's great patron, St. Patrick.

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He added that it is expected to "attract many excellent teachers who have hesitated to enter the field of Catholic education because of the lack of assured

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Persecution Charge Scored By Catholics

(Continued from Page 1)

eranism is the established State religion and "other religions do not enjoy the freedom taken for granted in the United States."

FATHER KELLY pointed to Ireland as an example "to disprove the charges that wherever Catholicism predominates, minorities suffer." He said recent statements by the former Lord Mayor of Dublin, Robert Briscoe, a Jew, and the recent election of Valentine Jago, a Methodist, as the Lord Mayor of Cork, attest to religious freedom in a country 95 per cent Catholic.

MR. WORK was quoted as saying: "It seems unfortunate that the Protestant leaders could not have done something positive rather than widen the breach in the Christian community."

A statement by Miss Mealey said "it seems a pity . . . that the World Council of Churches should at a time of world crisis allow itself to dissipate its power for good by such ill-founded and unfair sallies into the field of religious controversy."

The bureau noted that Mr. Whyte is on record as saying that charges of persecution laid to the Catholic Church in

Colombia and other South American countries "are meaningless."

THE CATHOLIC spokesman also took issue with Dr. John A. Mackay president of Princeton (N. J.) Theological Seminary, who he said had charged that "religious liberty means more now in the Communist-dominated countries of Czechoslovakia and Hungary than in the predominantly Catholic countries of Spain and Colombia."

Father Kelly suggested that Dr. Mackay check the facts with Archbishop Josef Beran "if prison guards will let him get to the Czech Archbishop."

"If he is as unsuccessful as American newspapermen have been in reaching the prelate," Father Kelly said, "perhaps he could talk to hundreds of Catholic and Protestant bishops, clergymen and laymen now in jails. It would be too much to ask him to visit those now enjoying religious liberty in Siberia."

"If Dr. Mackay for this once has facts to support his repeated inflammatory and anti-Catholic charges, perhaps he can list just a dozen Protestant bishops or ministers now imprisoned in Spain and Colombia. Failing that, could he name even three — or two — or one?"

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GOD LOVE YOU!

By MOST REV. FULTON J. SHEEN

NINETEEN HUNDRED YEARS AFTER OUR LORD SHED his blood on Calvary as the "Lamb of God Who takes away the sins of the world," only 17% of the earth's population belong to His Mystical Body. Is this tragedy so because the beams of His Cross were so short to embrace the world in redemption, or because we who claim to be His have not been effective instruments?

THE WELL OF SALVATION IS DEEP ENOUGH, but few of us have provided cups. Our Lord depends on us. He gives the flow of grace but we must be the channel. Our Lord struck down Paul in the high noon of his persecution of the Church, but it was Ananias who was used by God to restore Paul's sight. The Lord was gracious to Cornelius, the Roman soldier, in making him the first Gentile convert, but his conversion came about through Peter.

Lydia, the dyer of purple, had her heart opened by the word of God, but it was through the preaching and instruction of Paul that she became the first convert in Europe. When the Prodigal Son returned, the father welcomed him, but it was the servants who were to bring forth the best robes and kill the fatted calf. The father might have done this, but he willed that the household share in the joy of a sinner doing penance.

IT IS IN LIKE MANNER THAT GOD WILL GIVE abundance of His grace to the Japanese, the Burmese, the Indian and the other 1,500,000,000 pagans. God will give the grace but we must supply the aid to the missionaries by staffing their hospitals, providing cathartics, nursing their lepers and we do it all by sacrificing little pleasures.

MY DEAR CATHOLIC PEOPLE DURING THE WHOLE OF last year you averaged 30¢ each to the Holy Father for his 135,000 missionaries throughout the world. That is the equivalent of the price of only half a cocktail a year. In the name of Christ crucified and His Sorrowful Mother, realize that you are an instrument in the conversion of the world; another human nature through which Christ works. Deny yourself a tiny pleasure every day and at the end of the month send it to the Holy Father through his own Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

GOD LOVE YOU to Anon "Our son was sick but his fever subsided and we didn't have to call a doctor so enclosed find \$3." . . . to E.S.R. for \$1 "Thank God I can give that some needy soul may live." . . . to J.S. "I am a waitress and I promised to send one per cent of my earnings to the missions so long as I am able to work so here it is \$10.70."

EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE AN INTEREST in heaven while still on earth. If you write for our pamphlet on annuities it will tell you interesting things about the material and spiritual benefits of taking out an annuity with the SOCIETY FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH.

Put out this column, pin your sacrifice to it and mail it to the Most Rev. Fulton J. Sheen, National Director of The Society for the Propagation of the Faith, 385 Fifth Avenue, New York 17, N.Y., or your Diocesan Director, Rev. Gen. S. Wood, 58 Chestnut Street, Rochester 4, New York.

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of the city. The new cathedral, to be the home of Spain's Kings, but now used only occasionally for government functions.

In this same chapel, St. Dominic was beatified in 1170.

Madrid's world famous museum the Prado, a handsome building heavily lighted, contains the masterpieces of El Greco, Murillo, El Greco, Del Sarto, Titian, Rubens. Two hours viewing these treasures of painting and sculpture made us ask, "How can we expect to see anything better than all this?"

Barcelona

Next stop was Barcelona. Lodged in a hotel facing the intricate tracery of that city's great Gothic cathedral we visited the cathedral's double shrine of St. Eulalia, an early Christian martyr, and St. Raymond, a medieval Dominican friar noted for his service to victims of the Moslems.

Montserrat

Highlights of our Spanish journey was a day long trip from Barcelona to Montserrat, the Lourdes and Niagara Falls of Spain.

This Benedictine monastery dates back over a thousand years to the eleventh century.

POODU of devotion is "La Morenita"—the little black Madonna—a thirty-eight inch image of our Lady and the baby Christ. The image is placed in a glass enclosed niche high above and behind the main altar. A marble staircase leads to the foot of the statue and you kneel to kiss the marble right hand extending through the glass protective

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