

**JOSEPH BREIG**

**The Pope's Blessing**

Pope Pius XII has sent his apostolic benediction through me to everybody who has had any part in the spiritual bouquet gathered by readers of this column for Joseph Cardinal Mindszenty of Hungary and all other victims of communism.

A report on the bouquet was sent recently to the Holy Father through the apostolic delegate in the U.S., Archbishop Amleto Giovanni Cicognani of Washington.

As you all remember readers contributed altogether about a million prayers and sacrifices, masses, novenas, stipends for 700 Masses which are being offered by priests in many parts of the world.

Arrangements for the Masses were made through the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

A few additional contributions to the bouquet have been received since the report was sent. Novenas, Masses, sacrifices or Mass stipends to be added to the bouquet.

Also included in the benediction will be any persons who may wish, even at this late date, to send prayers, sacrifices or Mass stipends to be added to the bouquet.

ONCE MORE I give my address, 227 Westminter Rd., Cleveland 18, Ohio. After all I do not want to pass up any possible spiritual help for Cardinal Mindszenty and other victims of communism.

A couple of years ago, when I first appealed for a spiritual bouquet for Cardinal Mindszenty, he was in a secret communist prison.

His health had been gravely impaired by communist mistreatment. It was feared that he might soon die. Certainly his position appeared hopeless.

But he recovered his strength and his full mental power. Then the Hungarian people set him free during their tragic but glorious uprising against tyranny in October 1956.

HE WAS GIVEN refuge in the American legation in Budapest when Soviet armed hordes ravaged Hungary. Our hope is that our second spiritual bouquet may help to obtain complete liberty for him.

The letter from Vatican City sending the Pope's apostolic benediction to everybody participating in the spiritual gift, is signed by Msgr. Angelo Dell'Acqua, substitute Vatican secretary of state.

He reminds us that the Holy Father wants us not only to pray for the victims of communism, but also for communists. After all, they are communism's most complete victims, because they are captives in soul as well as body.

**Dinners Served 2,000 Youngsters**

Philadelphia — (NC) — Turkey dinners were served to 2,000 underprivileged children in 12 institutions of the Philadelphia Archdiocese during Thanksgiving week. The dinners were cooked, served and financed by local Knights of Columbus, who treat the youngsters each year to the holiday feast.

**'Italy's Bishop Sheen'**

**Capuchin Friar's Weekly TV Program Draws Over 2,000,000 Viewers**

By LUCIANO CASIMIRRI

Rome — (NC) — The Bishop Sheen of Italian television is a 50-year-old Capuchin friar who is holding a vast audience here.

He is Father Mariano di Torino, whose 15-minute Sunday morning program, called "Father Mariano's Mail," is rapidly becoming one of the most popular in Italy.

The effectiveness of his broadcasts, despite what is considered an undesirable time (11:30 a.m.), is indicated by the quantity and content of the mail that floods into his Rome monastery residence every day.

A MILANESE lawyer writing to him, sums it up this way: "You are bringing over to the Church more people than many realize."

In a few years the quarter-hour Sunday morning spot on television has reached an audience of over two million listeners, according to the Italian Television system's own survey.

Viewers generally feel that Father Mariano owes his success to two factors: his personal charm and his method of exposition. They describe his eyes as "bright and kind." He has an easygoing, informal manner when he speaks. The thick, full beard has become the trademark of his television personality.

THE VATICAN City weekly, L'Osservatore della Domenica, recently wrote about him:

The Capuchin Father of television has succeeded in gaining on the screen a prestige different from, yet equal to, that enjoyed by Bishop Fulton J. Sheen on American television screens. They are two different personalities and the character of their programs is different, so they cannot be properly compared. But both possess this human and spiritual power of attraction, without which no one could last long on TV screens."

It would be wrong to call Father Mariano a television preacher. He gives the impression of talking almost intimately to his television audience. In the short 15 minutes allotted to him, he makes an informal presentation of a few practical religious considerations and then turns to the mail, from which his program takes its name.

FATHER MARIANO'S supporting cast are the letters that he selects from comment out of a weekly average of about 1,000 letters. His answers are lively and varied, and almost invariably entertaining. Like his American counterpart, he uses a black board.



FATHER MARIANO di TORINO, ITALY'S TV PRIEST

Since his television debut in 1954 the same year that the Italian television system was inaugurated, he has treated the most varied topics. His comments have run the gamut from boxing to spiritualism and from psychoanalysis to marriage.

The great esteem in which he is held was demonstrated in the liver's quarter of two young Neapolitans in which he was asked to arbitrate. A date for the wedding could not be agreed upon and Father Mariano's answer, after considering both sides of the question, settled the issue.

Not all his fans are Catholics. A well-known Jewish antique dealer in Rome never misses a broadcast. When he went on vacation last summer, he walked two miles every Sunday morning to the nearest television receiver so that he might not miss the program.

A PROTESTANT minister in Lugano, Switzerland, wrote not long ago asking him to change his program to an evening hour so that it would not conflict with his Sunday morning duties.

On several occasions lapsed Catholics in danger of death have called for Father Mariano in order to be reconciled to the Church.

Seven hours a day, six days a week go into preparation for the 15-minute a week that he is on the air. A number of books and private consultations with specialists stand behind the reply to every letter question.

Father Mariano believes that he could increase his audience by several millions if he were allowed to go on during an evening hour.

**Philadelphia DA Hits Sale Of Lewd Christmas Cards**

Philadelphia — (NC) — A citywide drive against display and sale of indecent Christmas cards was launched here with the arrest of a proprietor of a mid-city magazine and greeting card shop.

The proprietor, Morris Rosenthal, 39, was charged with violation of Pennsylvania obscenity statutes. At a hearing in City Hall he was held for court in \$500 bail.

District Attorney Victor H. Blanc ordered a citywide survey to determine the extent of the obscene card market.

"As many men as are needed to do the job are inspecting card outlets," he said. "I want this desecration of Christmas wiped out completely."

Hundreds of cards described as "definitely blasphemous in character" and 1,000 lewd magazines were confiscated at the Rosenthal shop by Chief of County Detectives Thomas McDermott. It was stated.

CHIEF McDERMOTT said that many of the cards were sent to the Assessor District Attorney Marvin Halbert who said: "These cards constitute the foulest desecration of the feast of Christmas I have ever run across."

Blasphemous drawings and inscriptions on the cards were censured by Assessor District Attorney Marvin Halbert who said: "These cards constitute the foulest desecration of the feast of Christmas I have ever run across."

The magazines fall within state statutes prohibiting the distribution and sale of obscene literature, according to Mr. Halbert.

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**Kit Carson Site Memorial Chapel**

Fort Lyon, Colo. — (NC) — The house here in which Kit Carson died in 1868 has been remodeled and dedicated as a memorial chapel to the famous frontier scout.

Now known as the Kit Carson Chapel, the building will be used for Catholic and Protestant services, Father J. A. Lequerre, chaplain at the Fort Lyon Veterans' Hospital has announced. The chapel is on the hospital grounds.

Kit Carson was baptized a Catholic at the age of 32 in January, 1842, by Padre Antonio Martinez at the Catholic Church in Taos, N. Mex., according to records of that church.

**SPIRITUAL EXERCISES AT THE CENACLE**

Spiritual exercises will be conducted at the Convent of Our Lady of the Cenacle, 693 East Ave., Rochester 7, during the month of December, as follows:

- RETREATS:
- Dec. 7-8—Girls, 12-13 Years of age—Rev. John A. Morgan
- DAYS OF RECOLLECTION:
- Special Advent Days of Recollection, offering opportunity to make a special preparation for Christmas, will be held Dec. 14—General
  - Dec. 15—St. Raphael's Guild
  - Dec. 16—St. Monica's Guild
- The retreat master for each of these days will be Rev. Cyprian Truss, O.F.M. Cap.
- GUILD MEETINGS:
- 1st Thursday, Dec. 5—Eucharistic Guild—9:15 a.m.—V. Rev. John F. Murphy, C.S.B.
  - 2nd Wednesday, Dec. 11—St. Regis Guild—after school—High School Students—Rev. Richard Murphy
  - 3rd Wednesday, Dec. 18—St. Lucy Guild—7:30 p.m.—For Blind—Rev. James S. Foley, S.J.
- YEAR-END Nocturnal Adoration  
Dec. 31 - Jan. 1st

YOU ARE MOST cordially INVITED TO ATTEND OUR

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SUNDAY AFTERNOON, DECEMBER 8, 1957  
FROM 1 UNTIL 5 O'CLOCK

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**Daily Mass**

Sunday, December 8 — Second Sunday of Advent (Purple). Credo, Preface of the Immaculate Conception of our Lady (white). Gloria and prayer of Sunday. Credo, Preface of our Lady.

Monday, December 9 — Immaculate Conception of our Lady (white). Gloria and prayer of Sunday. Credo, Preface of our Lady.

Tuesday, December 10 — through Thursday, December 12 — Mass of Second Sunday of Advent, no Gloria, no Creed, Roman Preface and prayer of Sunday of St. Melchisedec, Wednesday of St. Dominicus, V.R.

Friday, December 13 — St. Lucy, martyr (red). Gloria, 2nd prayer of Sunday.

Saturday, December 14 — Mass as Tuesday except no 2nd prayer; V.R. — omitted at High Mass. V.R. — Voluntary or Requiem permitted.

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