

Voice Of The Madonna!

TB Victim Claims Lourdes Miracle

Florence, Italy—(NC)—A paralyzed victim of bone tuberculosis claims he was completely cured at Lourdes, world famous shrine of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Remigio Soldani, 48-year-old farm laborer, walked from the train into the Florence railroad station where two weeks earlier he had boarded the train for Lourdes as a litter patient, unable even to stand.

A large crowd gathered at the station as rumor of the "miracle" spread through the building. Fellow pilgrims from Lourdes sang the familiar Lourdes hymn, "Ave, Ave Maria," as the train pulled in and as Mr. Soldani got off.

He told newsmen he had been suffering from tuberculosis of the bone for 10 years and had been paralyzed for the past 18 months. He said he was "home" daily in a newspaper, and the miracle case history appeared to be well documented with X-rays and medical reports.

Mr. Soldani said he took part in the prayers, processions and immersions as a litter patient at Lourdes until August 4. He said he was finishing his lunch that day when he noticed a strange buzzing sound in his head.

"I was a little startled and for a few minutes I kept perfectly still," he recalled.

"I didn't move. A few minutes later I heard someone say to me—and I knew it was the voice of the Madonna immediately—'But what are you doing? Get up and walk.'"

He said the voice continued to speak to him and that he wanted to obey, but "I didn't have the courage."

"I believed that I had received the grace, but I was held back by the thought that once I had my legs out of the cot I might have a big disappointment. Several minutes passed in this manner."

"Finally I called the litter bearer and told him to help, and thus supported, I got up. It was incredible. I had found my legs again and even the sores and bruises had disappeared."

He said the news spread quickly through Lourdes and that he was taken to the medical center where he was examined by doctors.

"A DOCTOR," he said, "declared that there was no sign left of my former troubles. However, he told me that he could not make any sure or definite pronouncement. I have promised to return in a year for a check-up."

(The Lourdes medical center does not pronounce on the miraculousness of a cure. It examines

the sick before they begin their devotions at the shrine and, in cases which seem to offer an unusual cure, it re-examines them as described by Mr. Soldani.

(The results of both examinations and usually of checkup examinations at different intervals are forwarded to a Church commission in Paris. It is this commission which determines if the cure effected at the shrine is to be hailed as miraculous.)

(Cases involving possible hysteria or mental influence over bodily ills are excluded. Only cases which show a recovery from a proved, visible organic disease are investigated as possible miracles.)

Mr. Soldani, on reaching the cathedral city of Arezzo, visited Cardinal Bishop Telesforo Cioffi, and then went to the city hospital for a series of examinations. Doctors at the hospital said the case had the appearance of clinical recovery. Church authorities have made no official pronouncement on the case.

As I Saw Red China

(Continued from Page 1)

We managed to transfer 28 Chinese Sisters and four Chinese priests by plane to Peiping.

THEN CAME the problem of our pride and joy, the seminary. After the scourge of communism would be only a memory in Manchuria, these young men would be needed as priests. But I could not arrange for a plane for the seminarians, 37 in all.

They solved this problem by immediately volunteering to attempt the half a thousand mile journey from Fushun, Manchuria, to Peiping on foot, along remote roads after dark.

The young men set out in three groups. One group of 19 was taken by the communists on their second day out. They were held for two weeks for communist indoctrination, but the youngsters proved their way out for finally they were released. I had given them up for lost.

I shall never forget the thrill I experienced when the bedraggled contingent shuffled in at six o'clock one morning hungry, thirsty, and worn out from many long nights in the open.

When the communist army swept over all of China some of the seminarians were captured and sent back to Manchuria, but nine managed to escape from the mainland and eventually were ordained in Hong Kong.

This is nothing new in Church history, for centuries Ireland smuggled its seminarians to the continent of Europe for training. Today, we too, are preparing young Chinese priests and Chinese Sisters for the time when we shall return to China.

The constant pressure of the communists made it necessary for me to move to Shanghai in November, 1948.

Every day priests and Sisters were imprisoned. Some were executed; others, perhaps a worse fate, were brainwashed, their minds twisted, made insane.

I anticipated arrest at any time, so when I was tipped off on June 15, 1953 that I was to be arrested, I just sat there in my room, that beautiful summer evening, waiting for them. It was an appropriate day—the 28th anniversary of my ordination to the priesthood.

And sure enough they came, about 30 of them, the military, police, political workers, both men and women, one even carried a machine gun to arrest a simple, old priest after 23 years of work in China.

NEXT WEEK—Arrest and in prison.

Washing Machines Mix Milk For Needy

Madrid—(NC)—Just plain clothes washing machines are an unexpected but important link in the chain of charity which brings American milk to the needy throughout Spain.

More than 100 of the machines are in use in Spain as king-size mixers in which powdered milk is prepared for distribution to the poor. Previously, the milk, donated by American charity, had to be mixed by hand—a laborious and time-consuming process.

The origin of this strange milk-clothes washing machine team work began in 1955.

In that year, Catholic Relief Services-National Catholic Welfare Conference with headquarters in New York, received \$2,000 as a Christmas gift to help the neediest parishes of Madrid and Barcelona. Casting about for the best use to be made of the gift, someone suggested trying the washers as mixers. Some of the money was spent on a trial.

With instant success, 32 washers were bought.

The use of the machines quickly spread to Granada, Jaen, Salamanca and other parts of Spain. The Spanish-made washers cost \$62.50 each.

In some dioceses several parishes have cooperated in constructing inter-parish centers for preparation and distribution of the milk, and in purchasing the clothes washers. Some parishes distribute up to 1,500 bottles of milk daily to the poor.

The milk project is only one part of Catholic Relief Services' extensive program of aid to the



Madrid—(NC)—A member of the Missionaries of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, using a washing machine as a king-size mixer, prepares powdered milk for distribution to the needy.

needy of Spain. It has been estimated that between October, 1954, and June of this year more than \$150 million worth of U.S. surplus foods were distributed by Spain through this relief agency of the U.S. Bishops.

Two Jewish communities and three Evangelical churches also share in the food distributed by Catholic Relief Services.

Souls Starving

World Missions Need Aid From U.S.

Notre Dame—(NC)—Just as the United States is accepting "the challenge of leadership in the community of nations," the Catholic Church in America has "an inescapable vocation to the world apostolate," Bishop Leo A. Pursley of Fort Wayne declared here.

While countless victims of war and oppression appeal to this young and growing nation for food and other aid, the Indiana prelate said, millions of spiritually starved souls in many lands look "to that young and growing branch of the True Vine which is the Catholic Church in the United States."

Bishop Pursley was the keynote speaker at the 15th national convention of the Catholic Students' Mission Crusade. Approximately 3,500 mission-minded young persons from all parts of the country came here for the four-day sessions.

"MANY PEOPLE in the world have no idea what the Church really is," Bishop Pursley observed. "There are some who would like nothing better than to see the Church drop dead, and there are others, more intense and determined in their hostility, who would hasten her end by the most violent means."

"We need not go back to martyrdom and its provinces to find martyrs, witnesses to

Christ in their blood. There is today," he said, "a Church of Silence because its voice has been stifled by the sort of brand that struck the fact of Christ when He spoke the truth before His enemies."

But even in her darkest hour, Bishop Pursley stressed, "the Church has never lost the living consciousness of her mission, has never failed to hear, above the din of whatever confusion and conflict, the voice of her Master saying, 'Go and teach.'"

The Bishop urged his audience of high school and college students to become "missionaries at heart" and share in some degree "the Church's constant awareness that she is sent to save others." He lamented that there are certain careless Catholics who are mildly concerned about their own salvation. But who "simply do not care" and make no effort to share their Faith with others.

Associate Editor

Dubouque—(NC)—Father Thomas J. Ralph has been appointed associate editor of The Witness, Dubouque archdiocesan newspaper.

Sure Cure

Tsun Yang, Korea—Koreans believe that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

"For a person who from childhood always detested medicine," says Father John R. Heise, Maryknoll Missioner from Chicago, Ill., "the typical Korean attitude to medicine is fascinating."

"Whether the medicine suits the ailment is of no consequence," reports the Chicago missioner. "A Korean's pain will move to fit the requirements of a particular medicine. If you tell a fellow with ingrown toenails that you only have aspirin for headaches, his pain travels due north with the speed of sound."

"If you dole out twelve pills and explain that they are to be taken every six hours over a three day period, he is just as likely to figure that by taking them all at once he can get well two days earlier."

Sisters Told

'Can't Win With Medieval Weapons'

Notre Dame—(RNS)—Bishop Joseph M. Marling of Jefferson City, Mo., warned here that Roman Catholic religious communities above all "may not sleep" while the whole world is in danger.

"With medieval weapons no battle can be won today," he said. "Nor will all the zeal in the world offset techniques which are ineffective because outdated."

The bishop preached at the Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes at ceremonies marking the close of the sixth annual Institute of Spirituality at the University of Notre Dame. Attending the institute were some 500 Sisters Superior and Novice Missresses.

BISHOP MARLING asked religious communities to emulate Pope Plus XII "who has shown by personal example how it is possible to be completely modern and progressive, while retaining

perfectly the spirit of the Gospels."

He recalled the Pope's words of censure to those "wired from a childish and irmoderate love of novelty, attack by their teaching, action and agitation the immutability of the Church" as well as to those "who seek knowingly or otherwise to cause her to be caught in a kind of sterile immobility."

'AND THE RAINS FELL AND THE WINDS BLEW'

and the convent chapel which served also as a parish church—FELL IN RUINS. It is difficult to describe the sorrow of the poor people of West—Chalakudi (Trichur, India) as they saw the destruction of the only House of God among them. The Christ Slain, the Bishop, and the poor farmers of the parish have united their efforts to build a suitable dwelling for their King, Land, materials, and labor have for the most part been obtained and put to use. To finish the job for the Sisters and the parishoners \$3000 is urgently needed. Can you give all or a part of this amount to bring Christ back to his frontier of the struggle against the forces which fear not God nor respect man?

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THE CEDARS OF LEBANON have ever been a symbol of strength and beauty! The "Cedars of Lebanon" SISTERS ELISE and SISTER ROSE, are beautiful in the sight of God—and strong in the eyes of men. They wish to devote their lives to the service of the poor and suffering of their war-torn country. Will you help them? They wish to give their lives—and beyond that they have sought to give. BUT, each must spend two years in novitiate training at a cost of \$300 for each. They will give heart and soul to their vocation.—If you can supply the necessary money, YOU may pay the \$300 in any manner convenient while your "Cedar of Lebanon" prepares herself for the work God has given her!

TO BE WITHOUT A COUNTRY IS A TRAGEDY... TO BE WITHOUT FOOD IS A DISASTER... OUR POOR REFUGEES HAVE NEITHER FOOD NOR COUNTRY... YOU WILL FEED A FAMILY FOR A WEEK... WILL YOU HELP THEM... YOU'LL NEVER MISS IT FROM YOUR VACATION MONEY!

"A NEIGHBOR'S CHILD CAN DO IT BETTER..." when it comes to telling his countrymen about Christ and His Church, SEBASTIAN and LOUIS are "neighbor's children," and they are anxious to tell their friends and relatives of Christ, the Church and the Mass. They wish to offer Mass in union with Christ and their countrymen! Will you help them achieve this sublime goal? Before either one can be ordained he must spend six years in the seminary at Alway, India. The total cost for each will be \$600—would you like to adopt a "neighbor's child" and make it possible for him to serve at the altar? You may pay the total of \$600 in any manner convenient while your "son in Christ" prepares to bring Christ to his neighbors.

MASS OFFERINGS SUPPLY THE NECESSARY "DAILY BREAD" FOR YOUR MISSIONARIES... THEY BRING THE STRENGTH OF HEAVEN TO YOUR OWN SOUL... REMEMBER YOUR PRIESTS OF THE NEAR EAST TODAY!!!

FALL CLEANING... NEW FURNITURE TO BE BOUGHT... Make it the season of the year to take a look at your home. We have taken a look at the House of God in the Near East and found it in great need... Will you help by the donation of an article for a mission chapel... Built for a special intention or for a loved one... Sanctuary lamps \$15... Mass book... \$25... Candelabra... \$40... Candles (for yr.) 25... Mass vestments... 10... Pictures... 25

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