

Pope Tells Tertiaries

Defense Of Faith Dominican Goal

Cas TelgandoHo—(NC)—Pope Pius XII told 2,000 delegates to the second international congress of the Third Order of St. Dominic that the Church today expects them to show the same devotion in defense of the Faith that St. Dominic displayed in his battle against heresy.

The Pope received congress delegates from 21 countries representing 1,000 tertiaries throughout the world. Tertiaries are lay people linked to the Dominican Order and pledged to a devout and apostolic Catholic life.

The Holy Father recalled that the Third Order's rule is the "ideal of personal holiness gained by means of the practice of a more perfect Christian life and of real for souls exercised in a manner appropriate to your lay state."

"This noble purpose," the Pope continued, "starts you with the character and marks of the Order of St. Dominic which is particularly distinguished for its order in the defense of the truth of the Catholic Church."

THE POPE NOTED that although tertiaries are lay people in an era of technical progress and social complexity, they must always be conscious of the spiritual

weaknesses of men, which remain unchanged by all this outward activity, urges its faithful to intensify their interior life by accepting its austere but irrevocable conditions.

To cultivate a spirit of faith, the Pope urged tertiaries to "devote a large part of your life to prayer." His Holiness said that along with faithful observance of the pious practices outlined in your rule you must be careful to cultivate an interior state similar to that of a contemplative Religious. That is to say, continuous attention to the things of God, cultivated taste for silent meditation and a fondness for the Divine Word found in the Scriptures and in liturgical offices.

The spiritual formation received in the Third Order qualifies you more than many other laymen for the study of the Catholic Faith.



Armenian Thanksgiving Rite

Cambridge—(NC)—Officialing at the annual "blessing of the grapes" is Father Luke Arakelian, (center) pastor of Holy Cross (Armenian) Catholic Church. The ritual is a traditional expression of thanks to God for the summer harvest in the American community. Following the ceremony, Father Arakelian distributed the fruit, a symbol of the Eucharist, to members of his congregation.

Food Piles Up, Millions Starve

Antigonish, N.S.—(NC)—The incongruous dilemma of two nations possessed of vast food surpluses while millions in the world go hungry was pointed up at the Rural and Industrial Conference at St. Francis Xavier University here.

George W. Jacobson, president of the Group Health Mutual and Cooperative of St. Paul, Minn., told the convention:

"Both in your country and in mine today, we are embarrassed because we have produced so-called surpluses of food—and we are even on occasion mutually irritated with each other because of these surpluses."

"Yet we know that two-thirds of the peoples in this world are hungry today, and that at least one billion of them suffer from malnutrition all of their lives. I think that we here would agree that it is morally impossible to have a surplus of food while people anywhere are hungry."

Mr. Jacobson emphasized that we have learned to produce in plentiful supply, but we have not yet learned to distribute that plenty equitably, for the well-being of all.

In the United States, Mr. Jacobson said, millions of dollars have been expended in recent years on new designs for tall

bins for automobiles which are "already too big for our streets and garages," and during the same time "our children suffer for lack of thousands of new classrooms to take care of their educational needs."

"There is something wrong with a system under which we choose tall bins instead of education," Mr. Jacobson declared, "and where food goes to waste while people are hungry."

Father Of 15 To Be Ordained

Oosterhout—(NC)—A 74-year-old Dutch widower, the father of 15 children, will be ordained at the Benedictine Abbey of St. Paul here in December.

F. E. M. Lucassen, former town councillor in Bussum and director of a big shipping firm, entered the abbey five years ago, shortly after the death of his wife.

Belgian Rites Mark Shrine's Anniversary

Beaurail—(NC)—Pilgrims from five continents thronged the shrine of Our Lady here to attend ceremonies commemorating the 23rd anniversary of the apparitions of the Blessed Virgin to five small children of this city.

In addition to 14 members of the hierarchy of Belgium and neighboring countries who assisted at the day-long functions, were Gilberte and Andree Degelembre and Gilberte Voisin, to whom Our Lady appeared 33 times between November, 1932, and January 5, 1933.

The other two witnesses of the apparitions, Fernande and Albert Voisin, were unable to attend. All five are now the fathers and mothers of their own families, and have remained regular in visiting the shrine.

When the Blessed Virgin appeared, she called on the children to sacrifice themselves for sinners, to pray for the conversion of the world and to love Her Son and herself.

The Relatives Have 'Taken Over' The Planning Of Our Marriage

By FATHER JOHN L. THOMAS, S.J.

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When June and I started making plans to get married, we thought we were dealing with our own wedding. Now the relatives have taken over, and we're reduced to little more than participant observers. We're not writing the script—we're just supposed to act. I don't mind "showers" and all that nonsense because I feel June rather enjoys them. But the wedding and the reception they've planned: Our folks don't have that kind of money, so we'll probably be stuck with it. What can we do?

That's a good question, Al. I only wish I could answer it the way one of my old professors used to do.

He'd always ask for questions at the end of class; if somebody gave him a tough one, he'd say, "That's a mighty good question." Then, without answering it, he'd turn to the class. "Now are there any more questions?"

IT'S DIFFICULT to tell you tell what to do, first, because we're already probably too late; and second, we're dealing with a peculiar type of irrationality or human unreasonableness. As you are discovering, a wedding may serve many purposes. In essence, it is the public exchange of marriage vows, resulting in the formation of the marriage bond.

Since this contract is a sacrament, marriage vows are exchanged before the altar, in the presence of a priest as a representative of the Church, and fittingly accompanied by the celebration of Mass.

But a wedding serves other purposes. It marks the formation of a new conjugal unit and the union of two separate families. Hence it is an occasion for rejoicing. It also marks the ending of two family circles, so fond parents shed a few tears.

This is all pretty much as it has been and should be. The unreasonableness starts after that.

Weddings may become the occasion of odd social customs, ranging from miniature fashion shows to obviously competitive efforts to "show off." Families vie with one another in the size and splendor of the receptions they can put on.

Experts are sometimes called in to run the show and guarantee a smooth performance. The cause of it all, the marrying couples, have little importance beyond providing the occasions for the display.



I suppose there have always been elements of irrationality about weddings. We read that they ran out of wine at the wedding—feast of Cana—evidently they had put on a bigger affair than they could afford. Unfortunately, unreasonable customs tend to persist and even become less rational.

Among some groups, custom requires such huge receptions that the couple start marriage with their savings gone, and in some cases, the wife must work during the first year or two of marriage to help pay the bill.

Al, I know you're thinking, "Where does all this leave me?" Well, as I said before, you're pretty late, but your father may serve as a warning to others. You and June had the right idea.

This is your wedding, and you should write the script. In fact, planning your wedding together should be one of the important first steps toward learning to work together in marriage.

There's still something you can do, Al. You can see to it that the important, essential religious ceremony receives fitting emphasis. Take your premarital instructions seriously and discuss them with June. Receive Communion together as frequently as possible in preparation for your future unity and the great day when you will confer the life-enduring sacrament of matrimony upon each other. Finally, you

can help those who will attend your wedding share more fully in the ceremony by presenting them with the Marriage Missa pamphlets now available.

Of course, Al, the picture may not be as black as you paint it. Every cloud has its silver lining. If planning and plotting the affair makes your respective mothers-in-law happy—they're the ones that seem to enjoy it most—you and June will have them on your side the rest of your life, and that's not profit.

New Retreat House For Ohio Women

Marion Stein—(NC)—The famed Shrine of the Holy Relics here, which has one of the world's largest collections of sacred objects, will be the site of a new \$500,000 retreat house for women.

Sisters of the Precious Blood, who organized the first retreat house at the Mercer County shrine five years ago, have announced a building program that will include a 60-room retreat headquarters, nearly doubling the present capacity.

The Shrine of the Holy Relics was erected in 1875 to house a collection of hundreds of relics salvaged from revolution-torn Europe by Father J. M. Gartner, then vicar general of the Milwaukee diocese.

Blind Girl Cured On Lourdes Trip

Barcelona—(NC)—An eye specialist here has declared that a young woman patient regained her sight through the intercession of the Blessed Mother.

Dr. Ignacio Barzague, head of an ophthalmological clinic here, told Maria Luisa Osorio, a former Madrid secretary returning from a pilgrimage to Lourdes, that "what science could not do was done by the Virgin."

The physician had examined Mrs. Osorio in 1934 and found that serious eye lesions were the cause of her blindness. After unsuccessful treatment the young woman went to Lourdes recently. On her way home, while passing through San Sebastian, she had a fascinating spell.

Her fellow pilgrims put water from the Lourdes grotto on her eyelids. On regaining consciousness she also regained her sight.

Capuchin Father Filiberto Villalobos, who accompanied the pilgrim, has recommended that the incident be regarded with prudence.

Ecuador Reports Vision Of Christ

Cuenca—(NC)—A court of the Cuenca archdiocese is studying reports that the face of Christ was seen in a consecrated Host by Catholics in the town of Villa de Canar.

Reports state that during the town's celebration of the feast of St. Anthony the pastor left the Blessed Sacrament exposed for the adoration of the faithful. Those who came to worship at about noon stated that they saw a likeness of the head of Jesus in the Host.

The pastor, Father Manuel Andrade, reported he had seen the same vision.

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