

'See The Stars' At Georgetown

University Trains Top U. S. Astronomers

By PAUL ALEXANDER McNEIL

Washington — (NC) — The graduate school of astronomy conducted here in the nation's capital at Georgetown University is one of the largest in the world.

Father Francis J. Heyden, S.J., is director of the school. He said it is the only Catholic school of astronomy in this country, although there are some 50 other such schools in the nation.

There are some 40 students at the school. One of the university's most distinguished graduates in radio-astronomy is Dr. John P. Hagan, now the director of the U. S. Navy's Vanguard project.

In a search for truth rather than a race for supremacy of space, the astronomy school at Georgetown was founded 125 years ago. The roll call of students and scholars who have come to the school over the years reads like a "Who's Who in Science." The courses are basic and fascinating and the students come from many parts of the world.

Father James Cyril, S.J. founded the school in 1836. He started the practice of keeping a daily record of temperatures which were taken at 6 a. m., noon, 3 p. m. and 6 p. m. Barometer readings were taken at noon.

He entered the information faithfully over 50 years, preserving the data for future scholars. He hardly could have realized that this practice one day would develop into daily newspaper front page news.

In 1841 the astronomical observatory was begun at the university campus and in 1845 the first observations were made.

The distinction of determining the true meridian of Washington was achieved in 1850 by the Jesuit university.

In 1911 the late Father Fran-

Rite Honors Sahara Hermit

Paris — (NC) — Government representatives flew to the Sahara to attend a brief ceremony honoring the memory of the priest-martyr of the African desert, Father Charles de Foucauld.

French Minister of War Veterans Affairs, Edmond Michelet traveled from Paris to represent his country at a Mass celebrated near the priest's tomb in the Hoggar ranges bordering the desert.

BOOK SHELF

Prizes

For Patrons

By Sister Margaret Teresa, Nazareth College

"Mary, by Sr. Mary Jean Dorcy, O.P. Drawings by Raffaele Busoni. Patron Saint Series, Sheed '58, \$3.00.
Joseph, by Wilfred Sheed. Drawings by Raffaele Busoni. Patron Saint Series 2, Sheed '58, \$3.00.

A Dictionary Of Saints, compiled by Donald Attwater. From the Thurston-Attwater revision of Butler's "Lives," '56. Kennedy '58, 280 pp. \$3.95.

Sheed and Ward offer a new series of story-picture books for the "six-to-nine" readers, about their patron saints, and open a contest for second and third grade at the same time.

The class with a winning entry will have the exciting joy of gaining 25 books for the library (first prizes) or 10 books (second prizes) or 5 (third prizes). Only one entry from a grade may be sent.

Judging by these first two books of the new series with



their beautiful flowing English, not the least infantile but rich in native idiom and strong in vocabulary—and with abundant two-color drawings full of living texture and mood—it will be quite a series!

From Wilfred Sheed's "Joseph" one learns many things: how to be a saint by obedience, how important carpentry was in early days and how the carpenter had his sons out their own wood in the forest, how the counting of citizens was done, how clever Joseph had to be to save Jesus from the soldiers, and then support Him in a strange country.

From the pictures one learns about Jewish houses and the glorious Temple, wedding feasts, Egyptian oxen, doves and lambs and oxen.

From Sr. Mary Jean Dorcy's "Mary" one learns about God's little Mother, how her father planted a pine tree on the day she was born, how she went to school in the Temple and offered her whole life to God—and how happy she was when when God used all his motherhood for the sake of His sweetness and charity for Jesus.

Donald Attwater's "Dictionary Of Saints" is just the right desk book for the contest. It will sit at the front for richer materials and will satisfy every child in the room that his name is known in Holy history. And it tells us over and over again how legends, myths and more stories and more stories get told about such beloved and important people as saints, (S.S.) fascinating names, too! So many Ralphs and Johns and Williams—and then a St. at Merry, a Saint Philet, a little Reine and a Thea and even an Opportuna!

Church in Chains

Brussels — (RNS) — Prison chains and a link-fence ceiling surround portraits of leading Roman Catholic victims of Communist persecution in the "Church of Silence" section of this exhibit hall at the World's Fair Vatican pavilion here. The statue in the foreground represents humanity enslaved under tyranny.

With the coming of the space age, the Institute of World Polity, founded in 1945 at Georgetown by the late famous scholar, Father Edmund A. Walsh, S.J., has taken on a new significance. The Institute originally was founded to deal with problems of international affairs concerning war.

But now there are problems in uncharted areas and there are global matters never before dreamed of as mankind looks once again to the glory of the God-made star.



'Good Thief'

MADISON — (RNS) — More than 400 correctional institutions in the U.S. and Canada will celebrate the sixth annual observance of the Feast of St. Dismas, patron of prisoners, Sunday, Oct. 13. This was announced here by the American Catholic Correctional Chaplains' Association, which sponsors "Good Thief Sunday." St. Dismas, shown here, was criminal crucified beside Christ on Calvary. He was promised Heaven when he cried out his faith in the Cross.

First Communion For Five Year Old

Chicago — (NC) — Karen Hildreth made her first Holy Communion here a few days ago but she may not be able to make many more.

The dark-haired five-year-old girl had looked forward to the occasion for a long time. For four weeks the Sisters at Holy Trinity Church had been instructing her for the big day.

IT'S UNUSUAL for a child so young to make her first Communion. The usual age is six or seven.

But Karen is pressed for time. She does not have long to live. That's what the doctors said at the University of Illinois hospital.

Her mother, Mrs. Barbara Hildreth, 26, of Urbana, still has hope, however.

"If we have enough faith in God, perhaps Karen will live. We shall pray constantly," she said.

Karen has a brain tumor. Surgeons have operated, and they will operate again soon. Mrs. Hildreth has been told, however, that Karen has at most a year to live.

Sister Suzanne of Holy Trinity School has visited Karen every day for four weeks. Sister Honor, another nun familiar with Karen's case, describes her as "a very talented child."

Karen has grasped the instructions about God and the meaning of first Communion very well, according to the nuns.

The big moment in Karen's



Chicago — (RNS) — Karen Hildreth, 5, who is undergoing treatment for a brain tumor, prays after receiving her first Holy Communion here. Considered young to take part in the rite, the Urbana, Ill., girl is expected by doctors at the University of Illinois hospital to die of the tumor within a year. Shown praying with Karen is Sister Suzanne of the Sisters of Christian Charity, who was one of the child's teachers in religion.

life came at a 10 o'clock Mass. She made her first Holy Communion with prayer and joyfully. The worshippers in the church watched as little Karen approached the altar rail. The choir, made up of grade school children, sang during the ceremony.

Little Karen, with her hands clasped in a prayerful attitude, walked back to her pew reverently.

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