

The Sainly Pope Who Saw Christ

Pope Pius XII, first pope since St. Peter to see our Lord Jesus Christ, this week fought his second battle against death.

As four years ago, so this past week the 82-year-old head of the Catholic Church was again stricken with hiccups. Then Monday morning at 8:30 a stroke paralyzed the ailing Pontiff.

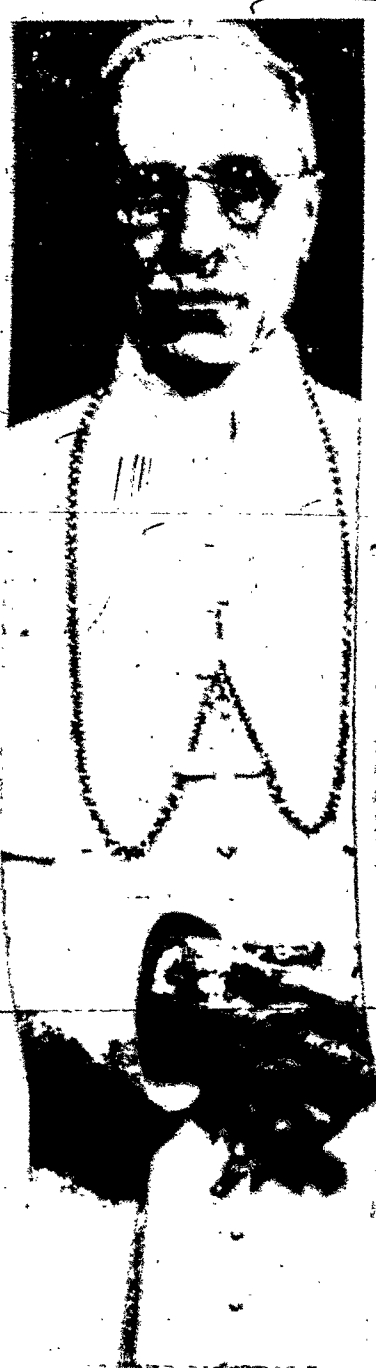
The Vatican Radio broadcast an appeal to the Christian world to pray for him.

The world watched and waited for news from the Pope's summer home at Castelgandolfo, 15 miles south of Rome, where doctors tended the gravely ill Vicar of Christ. They admitted, "All is in the hands of God."

POPE PIUS ALSO stood at the brink of death in 1954, weakened by the same gastritis which returned to plague him again at this time.

When doctors despaired of his recovery in 1954, he was granted a vision of the Saviour, the first such episode ever reported in the near two thousand year history of the 262 popes of the Catholic Church.

The "hopeless" patient recovered rapidly and has carried a work load since which would stagger a man half his age.



HIS SCHEDULE this year, centenary of the apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary at Lourdes, France, has been exceptionally heavy. Despite advice of doctors to rest, he continued to hold daily audiences. His last audience was held Sunday during which he spoke for 25 minutes.

Elected to the papacy on his 63rd birthday, March 2, 1959, Pope Pius XII in his nineteen years as ruler of half a billion Catholics has won the reputation as the most saintly person in the world.

His pontificate has seen the havoc of World War II and the subsequent past expansion of atheist Soviet power. He made peace the goal of his prayers and efforts and saw his hopes rise after time dashed to pieces in a series of wars and heavy wars ranging from the Suez in Egypt to the Yalu in Korea.

He has witnessed the destruction of Catholic missions in China, a wave of anti-Church activity in Italy, the rise of pagan and materialistic attitudes in still-free western nations.

To meet the needs of the times he has given expert counsel to statesmen, doctors, labor leaders, teachers, scientists, psychiatrists, parents, children, clergy, artists, farmers.

He swept aside age-old laws of the Church to make Holy Communion and the Mass more available to the people and drastically changed ritual laws in force for centuries.

Through all his activity, he maintained a rigorous monastic discipline over his own personal spiritual life and has been publicly cheered, "Il santo Papa—the Pope who is a Saint."

POPE PIUS XII



Rome and the world have often received the blessing of Pope Pius XII. His life and words and prayers have brought God's truth and grace to human hearts in sore need of guidance and help.

'Yardstick' Of Love

New Orleans — (NC) — The growing controversy over racial relations in this country was deplored by Archbishop Joseph F. Rummel of New Orleans in a pastoral letter read in all churches of his archdiocese.

Characterizing the rift as "a serious threat to the peace and unity which are indispensable to our well being," the Archbishop declared:

"Daily we are reminded that the racial controversy is growing in extent, intensity and bitterness. It would indeed be a calamity for our nation were we to become permanently divided and estranged over an issue which involves basic human rights, moral responsibilities, religious principles and the solid foundation upon which our democratic way of life was conceived and developed."

Archbishop Rummel, who previously has taken a firm stand against racial segregation, told the faithful of the archdiocese:

"We have no intention at this moment to repeat or enlarge upon our previous statements on this controversy. We are as convinced as ever that all men are created after the image and likeness of God, en-

dowed with an immortal soul destined to share the life of grace on earth and the life of glory in heaven, the one heaven that offers to all deserving men without distinction of race, nationality or color, the entrancing vision of the All High God.

"We are as convinced as ever that the Eternal Son of God, Christ Jesus our Lord, suffered and died to merit the grace of sanctification and salvation for all men, that He instructed His Church to make His way of life available to all nations, peoples and races. We are still convinced that the consistency of the Christian faith and conformity with the Christian way of life demand our repudiation of racism in all its obnoxious forms.

"We are still convinced that love of neighbor is the test yardstick of our love of God, weighed in the balance of sincerity, helpfulness and absence of compulsory discrimination.

"We are still convinced that enforced racial discrimination inflicts incalculable mental and emotional cruelty and pain, physical and social privation, educational and economic restrictions upon sixteen millions of our fellow citizens, and that these discriminations are unjustifiable violations of the Christian way of life and the principles of our American heritage.

"When the peace of the

world is threatened, or when there is evidence of internal disorder within a nation, our supreme spiritual leaders of all ages have urged the Church of God to have recourse to prayer for the calm consideration and objective thinking that lead to peace.

"In our own generation, from the illustrious Leo XIII, the Vicars of Christ have exhorted us in every crisis to have recourse to prayer to the Prince of Peace through Mary, the Queen of Peace. Indeed, our Blessed Lady in her apparitions at Fatima has revealed that universal prayer, especially the recitation of the Rosary, will be the great and sure means of peace.

"Inspired by this guidance we exhort all the members of our flock in Christ, the reverend clergy, the devout religious and faithful lay children as well as adults, to dedicate the month of October to daily recitation of the Rosary for universal peace with justice and honor according to the Christian principles of justice, charity and patience.

"We further urge that the recitation of the Rosary be continued as a family devotion throughout the year. We need unity in the home, in the parish, in the archdiocese and in the nation. The true bond of unity is charity, the binding force of charity is prayer, united prayer, sincere prayer, persevering prayer."

Joseph Breig

Today's Children Need Real Heroes

There is one tremendous thing that nobody can take away from cowboy movies. They show men standing up for principle, refusing to compromise with evil.

The heroes are rugged, bold, and they are not afraid to die for their principles.

They forget that Christ denounced scoundrels in language of such power that its equal cannot be found in all literature.

"BLIND GUIDES, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel. Woe to you scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you make clean the outside of the cup... but within you are full of rapine and uncleanness!"

You are like the whitened sepulchers, which outwardly appear to men beautiful, but within are full of dead men's bones, and of all filthiness...

gooey as mush. Much of what poses as virtue is as sloppy as slish — and yet as prissy as a fop.

There are people who not only talk as if violence were always wrong, but as if violence were almost the only wrong.

These bleeding hearts are always pointing to what they like to call the gentle Christ. The truth is that they know hardly anything about Christ.

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"You serpents, generation of vipers, how will you flee from the judgment of Hell?"

Where else, in history or even in fiction, can be found words so like blows of a fist — or a club?

THE GENTLE CHRIST indeed. He was gentle with the humble — those eager to learn God's will and embrace it — but not with the others.

With the others He was brutally honest because nothing else held hope of shattering their self-pride or of breaking their hold upon the people.

The "gentle Christ" so drooled-over by the sentimentalists, was the Christ who fashioned a whip and in terrifying wrath drove the money-changers who were as tough as they come — out of the temple.

Something manly, something masculine must influence our younger generations lest they grow up too soft-headed to hit a man to stop him from torturing a child.

Faith Strong In Ghana

West Africa Nation Once Slave Trade Victim

By FATHER PATRICK O'CONNOR
Society of St. Columban

Accra, Ghana — (NC) — It was nearly two in the morning when our car coughed to a dead stop on the lonely road outside Accra. Barely an hour in this West African land and I was already in trouble. We stood, helpless, on the road.

A car came towards us and slowed down. The driver, an African, leaned out and asked: "Can I help you, Father?"

He could and did. Soon we were on our way into the city.

I was to have many more experiences here of Catholicism blended with Ghana friendliness.

One of the men I saw in the pews at Sunday evening devotions in the cathedral was a cabinet minister. Wearing his togalike robe of colorful "kente" cloth, Minister of Trade Patrick Quah, was just another Ghana Catholic, kneeling before the Blessed Sacrament. At Mass that morning he and his wife had received Holy Communion. Two of his colleagues, Minister of State-Kojo Botso and Minister of Information Kofi Baako, are likewise Catholics.

IN CAPE COAST I was introduced to Auxiliary Bishop John Amisah, the first Ghana-born bishop. One of his sisters is a nun.

Inland, in Agomanya, I visited a simple, spotless convent where nine smiling African girls are preparing to be the first Handmaids of the Divine Redeemer, a Ghana Sisterhood. Six are novices, three postulants, being trained by Holy Ghost Missionary Sisters — Sister Providencia, a German-Argentine, and Sister Patricia Coult from Troy, Vermont.

The Divine Word Fathers here told me that if I wore my cassock out-of-doors, I would make my way around more easily. They were right. From school children to government officials, people called me "Father" and seemed to take extra trouble to help me.

This I saw many signs that Christianity is now part of Ghana, even though Christians are still a minority.

Gold dust and the atrocious slave traffic lured leaders to this West African country, formerly called the Gold Coast.

but missionaries came here to spend themselves for immortal souls. All of Ghana, now an independent state, gained by their self-sacrifice.

Ten years before Columbus discovered America, Portuguese priests made a brave beginning here. Nothing had remained of their work, however, when in 1580 a French priest of the Society of African Missions (S.M.A.) made a fresh start. Now, 78 years later, there are more than 500,000 Catholics—more than 600,000, according to some sources—in this land of 5,000,000 people.

The growth from zero to half-a-million has been won by heroic sacrifices. After the first 20 years there were 4,000 Catholics in the country, and the graves of 26 young priests. The first Irish priest of the Society of African Missions to come here died in 1855, less than 18 months after his arrival.

Today, thanks to modern preventive medicine, West Africa no longer merits the name of the White Man's Grave. Archbishop William T. Porter, S.M.A., of Cape Coast, 71-year-old head of Ghana's metropolitan See, has just celebrated the 40th anniversary of his ordination and the 38th of his arrival in West Africa.

Most of the S.M.A. priests who have labored in Ghana have been French, Dutch and Irish. The first Sisters to come were those of Our Lady of the Apostles. They opened a school for girls as early as 1851.

DIVINE WORD Fathers staff the Diocese of Accra, the capital, under Bishop Joseph O. Bowers, S.V.D., born in the West Indies, first Negro in Ghana. His missionaries include six U.S. Negro members of the Divine Word Society, four priests and two Brothers.

SERMONETTE

Charity Is Not Puffed Up — 1 Corinthians 13, 4.

By THE REVEREND PAUL COURTNEY
Everyone loves a fat man.

But it must be honest fat... real, blubber placidly resting on a person in shameless profusion. No one cares for the "fat-in-spirit." The man who is puffed-up with the empty wind of self-importance has none of the charm of the honest fat man. Where the one usually seems as large in spirit as in girth, the other somehow manages to seem half real. We suffer a compelling temptation to puncture the swollen ego of the puffed-up man and reduce him to honest dimensions. The "fat-in-spirit" neither attract nor practice charity.

There are two reasons why the puffed-up man is poorly situated to exercise charity. First of all, he knows that he is peculiarly vulnerable to the assaults of the critical. He must constantly guard against any leaks in his self-esteem. He cannot allow others to approach too near him spiritually. Access to his inner self is a supreme danger for the man whose ego is swollen with self-esteem. He cannot love others in any real sense, because love demands some degree of communion of souls, a self-revelation and an intimacy he cannot risk.

Moreover he is so preoccupied in guarding this fragile bubble of his self-esteem and so engrossed in the task of maintaining the proper level of inflation that he has not the interest nor the energy to concern himself seriously with the needs of others. Maintaining any fraudulent pose is a full-time project. So with being puffed-up.

If we wish to have charity, part of its price is a decent humility.

We must recognize what we are... even if we have tendencies to be full of "hot air."



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San Salvador, Bahamas — Dominican Father Nicholas Kremer leads tourists in prayer at spot where Columbus landed on historic October 12, 1492. Cross recalls one raised by the famed explorer to claim the new world for the Saviour. (Pan American Photo).