

Skin Divers Madonna

Mexico City—(RNS)—An heroic size statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe will be sunk about 12 feet beneath Acapulco Bay on Dec. 12.

To be lodged on a rock shelf a distance from the shore, the statue will be clearly visible to fishermen passing over it.

The work of Armando Quezada of Coyocacan, famed Mexican sculptor, the statue will be blessed by Archbishop Miguel Darío Miranda of Mexico City at the Basilica of Guadalupe here on Dec. 4.

The statue was commissioned by the Mexican Skin Divers Association. It will be known under the title "Protectress of Skin Divers and of All Who Work Beneath the Sea."

Bookies Aid Nuns

Belfast—(RNS)—A group known as the Young Philanthropists which runs a weekly football pool has kept the Catholic Mater Dei Hospital here going for the past ten years.

Operating expenses of the hospital, which receives no state help, have been \$2,100,000 during the period.

"While most of the money for the hospital came to us from charitable benefactors," a report of the Mother Superior said, "our combined deficits for the past ten years have amounted to \$375,000. Without the help of the money collected for us by the Young Philanthropists football pools our financial position would be precarious in the extreme."

During the past decade, 602,000 patients were medically treated at the hospital and 23,000 underwent surgery.

Convert Elected Dominican Head

London—(NC)—Father Henry St. John, O.F.M., a convert to Catholicism and an internationally known student of the eumenical movement, has been elected Dominican Provincial for Great Britain.

He is believed to be the first convert to hold the post, and the first Cambridge University graduate in the office since the 16th century.

Father St. John, 65, entered the Catholic Church in 1917, four years after becoming an Anglican clergyman, as his father was. He joined the Dominicans in 1919, after serving in the British Army.

BOOK SHELF

Saint

Bernadette

By Sister Margaret Torms, Nazareth College

Bernadette, by Marcella Auclair, Tr. by Kathryn Sullivan, R.S.O.J., Desclée, Belgium, '38, Official Centenary Book, 204 pp., illus. At all Catholic bookstores.

Saint Bernadette Soubirous, by Magr. Francis Trochu, Tr. by John Joyce, S.J. Pantheon '38, 400 pp., illus. \$4.95.

In this year that so truly belongs to Our Lady's little saint of Lourdes, we have some ultra-fine biographies. Marcella Auclair, whose life of the great Saint-Teresa (Pantheon Books) made her world-famous in 1953, has done one of them, illuminating the little maid who illumines Mary.

Her "Bernadette" is rapt with one concern: the child herself, her very tone of voice, her inmost thought.

Out of little actualities rated less important by earlier biographers—Bernadette visiting Bordeaux, for instance, and bubbling with enthusiasm at the sight of the world through which she was journeying before leaving it forever, her eyes sparkling with pleasure in her "good little round face," writing home about the bright-colored fish in the Botanical Gardens and the children watching them—she accustoms us to a Bernadette so real that it is a kind of heartbreak to part from her.

Mother Vauzou is dismissed in a few brief paragraphs. We learn that it was decided not to spare Bernadette; and at once we are back at the real subject, the child of the poor who has slowly, through love of her little Young Lady of the Grotto, learned her destiny of becoming the privileged spouse of Christ. What a nun she became!

ONE SUFFERED. That endless calling to the parlor for questioning was endured for thirteen years. However friendly the intent, the actuality had in it an element of torture (constant repetition, constant interruption of her convent duties and joys) only too familiar to us as the fate of the unsubdled in the Iron Curtain countries.

She would say to God, "Yes, I am going to the parlor," on condition that a soul will leave Purgatory or that You will convert sinners."

The physical sufferings multiplied; she could not even lie down; finally, she could not even recall her darling Lady's face in the worst times of pain! But she could say, of each pain that came to mind or body, "Sugar" from her Love, of course."

Marcella Auclair gives us Bernadette's beautiful, revealing word about Saint Joseph: "When

it becomes impossible to pray—then it is time to pray to Saint Joseph!" The Soubirous were rich in just one way: they loved each other—so they perfectly understood Saint Joseph.

The last chapter, the Te Deum of Bernadette's thoughts as death nears, is a true climax. The illustrations (seventy-eight) are mainly sensitive photographs by Jean Fortin. Mother Kathryn's translation is crystalline, even to the delicate teasing of Bernadette's familiar correspondences.

Monsieur Trochu's is of course the masterbook for the study of Bernadette. Published first in France in 1954, its thorough scholarship and total objectivity, familiar notes of his earlier work (the lives of the Cure of Ars, and of St. Francis De Sales), are veiled in the persuasive and Godward tenderness native to the French priest-writer. A21 later writers admit debt to this definitive work.



Churches Mark 'Eucharistic Advent'

Catholics of the Rochester Diocese have responded promptly to Bishop Kearney's appeal to make this month a "Eucharistic Advent." Pastors report increased numbers at daily Mass and Communion. At St. Patrick's Church, Rochester, noon-time Mass attendance jumped from 70 last Monday to 103 this Monday and Communicants doubled from 33 to 60. Father Leo Mooney, giving Communion in photo, schedules a 12:20 noon

Mass every working day. The lately-founded Daily Mass League is continuing its Advent membership drive seeking Catholics to enroll in the richly indulgent organization which requires "no dues, no meetings, no officers, no promises—just the genuine desire to attend Mass daily." Application may be made by sending the coupon to the right to Rev. Edward Killens, spiritual director, 10 Pleasant St., Rochester 4, N.Y.

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'Hucksterism' No Way To Promote Vocations

Alton—(RNS)—"Madison Avenue hucksterism" has no place in recruiting young men and women for the religious life. That was the opinion expressed here by Father Frank Garland, C.S.C., editor of Catholic Boy and a national director of the Knights of the Altar.

"We see pictures of young men playing tennis at the seminary, as if that's all they have to do while studying for the priesthood."

"High powered hard sell" recruiting, he said, will tend to attract young people to the religious life who do not really have a vocation.

"Leaflets, films and promotions are good in their own way," he observed, "but they are less useful than examples of wonderful Catholic laymen living good lives as responsible community leaders and family men."

Father Garland noted that we need religious Brothers and nuns badly, but fundamentally we need boys and girls who are golden throughout. Then we must find among them those who have been chosen by God and help them to find His decision for themselves."

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