

Jewish Piety Topic Of 'Bridge'

Father Joseph Brennan of St. Bernard's Seminary in this second of two articles on "The Bridge," a recently published book, reviews highlights of Christian-Jewish relationships occurring in recent years.

By REV. JOSEPH P. BRENNAN
(Written for the Courier-Journal)

In the three volumes "The Bridge," Catholic scholars confront Jewish tradition with the teaching of the Church, examining present relations between the two communities, and study in detail a number of themes from Scripture, Theology, philosophy, history, sociology, art, whatever fields may be influenced by Jewish thought and culture.

Each of the volumes is an exciting adventure into unfamiliar but rewarding subjects. Let us examine briefly just a few of the topics in Volume 3. It is edited by Rev. John M. Oesterreicher and published by Pantheon Books, price \$4.50.

A German Franciscan, Bertram Hessler, has a brief article on the social thought of the Old Testament. Many misunderstandings are cleared up as the author brings out the originality and humaneness of Jewish Law, as distinct from the pagan legal codes of the time.

The great emphasis on mercy, freedom, the dignity of man, the imperfection of slavery, and absolute submission to the Will of the Lord, are unique features of Israel's social program.

Frederick Moriarty, S.J., Dean of Theology at Weston College, brings new life and light to those neglected men of the Old Testament, the Prophets. No mere forecasters of future calamities or glories—they were God's spokesmen, impassioned, unheeded, unrelenting. Their message needs to be heard again.

James Kritzack of Princeton University has contributed a fascinating historical study of Jews, Christians and Moslems, and their impact on one another. Here is a whole new world, to most of us, one in which the author is an acknowledged expert.

Father Oesterreicher's article describes a remarkable Jewish mystical movement

that swept Eastern Europe at the end of the 18th century. Hasidism, at this movement is called, still exerts an influence on Jewish thought, and Catholics will find much in it to remind them of our saints.

There are other articles by equally distinguished writers—studies on the Book of Job, on the significance of the Divine Name of Yahweh, revealed to Moses on Mount Sinai.

One thought-provoking survey is devoted to pointing out the theological aspects of the State of Israel, a point of view often neglected in the heat of political discussions. There are stories from the besieged Warsaw Ghetto, to an analysis of the work of the Jewish painter, Abraham Rattner, and a number of book-reviews.

Two of the leading articles are devoted to Martin Buber, the great Jewish thinker who is celebrating this year his eightieth birthday. In fact, the whole volume is dedicated to him, and all the articles treat some problem that has engaged his interest during his long, prolific career.

His name, it is true, is not a familiar one to most of us, but his influence on modern thought is considerable, even outside Jewish circles. These articles provide an introduction to his philosophy, which is especially notable for its insistence on the personal nature of our relationship with God and our fellow-man, a living, mutual relationship between two persons, a dialogue, a conversation.

Our impersonal civilization reduces this dialogue to a monologue; each of us is speaking, but none of us is listening. Thus charity is replaced by efficiency, and mutual respect and understanding is replaced by propaganda. Teachers, priests and nuns, will find Buber's reflections on education quite illuminating.

The scope of "The Bridge" is clearly catholic. There is something for every taste. Not a page can be considered dead or dry. The standard of scholarship and literary craftsmanship is consistently high.

While we might say much more about the book about Buber, the Old Testament, the heritage of Israel, and our common destiny in God's mysterious plan, we shall close with the hope that more and more discriminating readers will discover these volumes, and to catch a glimpse of the richness of our Faith.

The Bridge between Judaism and the Church is indeed Christ our Lord, and it is up to us, as members of His Mystical Body, to be bridge-builders ourselves, narrowing the gap that still separates those of us who are Abraham's spiritual children from those who are his children according to their human descent.

By such reading as this, by prayer, by a greater effort towards sympathetic understanding and perfect charity, we can bring nearer the day predicted by Saint Paul, Epistle to the Romans, chapter 11) when "all Israel shall be saved. For their stumbling has not led to their absolute ruin. The result of their false step has been to bring the Gentiles salvation. But if their false step has enriched the world, if the Gentiles have been enriched by their defection, what great results may we not expect from the addition of their full number to Christ's Body?"

Employers Study Church Doctrine

New York (NC) Spiritual advisers have been named in two archdiocese for Catholic employers study groups: the national headquarters here of the Catholic Employers and Managers Study Group movement announced.

Archbishop Richard J. Cushing of Boston had named Father Francis McLaughlin as adviser to the Boston archdiocese study group. Archbishop Thomas A. Egan of Newark, N. J., appointed Father Aloysius Welsh as advisor to the Newark study group.

The study groups seek to promote social justice through the study and discussion of Catholic social principles among employers and other representatives of management.



Pope Visits Future Missionaries

Rome — (RNS) — Pope John XXIII clasps the hand of an African missionary student during a recent visit to the Pontifical University of the Propagation of the Faith where he celebrated a Mass for some 250

seminarians from 45 countries. Looking on are Pietro Cardinal Ruffini, chancellor of the institution (left), and Gregory Peter Cardinal Agagianian, Pro-Prefect of the Sacred Congregation for the Faith.

Church Construction Hits New High In November

Washington — (RNS) — Church construction set a new record for the month of November, totalling \$81,000,000, the Departments of Commerce and Labor reported here.

CONSTRUCTION put in place during November totaled the same as in October, despite the fact that construction usually declines seasonally as inclement weather spreads over the Northern states.

Total for the month was \$3,000,000 more than for the same month of 1957, and brought construction for the first 11 months of 1958, to \$75,000,000, only 1 percent less than last year's record.

Construction activity by non-public schools and colleges, most of which are church-related, continued at a high level, amounting to \$22,000,000 during November, only \$1,000,000 less than in

'Rosary At Dawn' Marks Feast Day

Washington (NC) A "Rosary at Dawn" pilgrimage was made by members of the Reparation Society of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Baltimore, Md., to the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception here on the feast of the Immaculate Conception.

Led by Father John Ryan S.J., the Baltimore pilgrims were joined at the shrine by Washington members of the society. There was a midnight procession with recitation of the Rosary and singing of the Lourdes hymn at 5 P. M., followed by a Solemn Mass in the crypt of the national shrine.

Equally members of a study group of the advanced Catholic University of America joined the pilgrims.

Atheist Volume For Schools

Venice — (RNS) — First issue volume of a new publication called "Atheist Literature" has appeared in Communist Czechoslovakia. The Prague Radio reported. It said further issues will be published "in great numbers" for distribution to factories, schools and libraries.

God Gave Us A Second Chance

REV. EDWARD P. CALLENS, SS. CC.

When God created our first parents He gave them all their nature required as creatures. But this was not all of His goodness: He gave them something infinitely greater; supernatural grace.

With this gift of grace they, created by sin which separated them from their Creator, and heirs of Heaven. This is the first parents shared by the sin of the Cross. Once again the light of supernatural life walked as it were, along the path of God's friendship. This sacrifice of the Cross our that of a willing father and mother, who were persecuted in the Sacred

GOD DID NOT force this link upon our first parents. He left them free to accept or to refuse His gift. You know the truth: history tells us that mankind's first step was a step away from God. God comes man lost the gift of supernatural life. Henceforth, the way to supernatural life flows through the sacrifice of the Cross. It is mankind's second chance. It is mankind's second chance to accept or to refuse His gift.

This first step away from God was a step away from God. It was a step away from God. It was a step away from God. It was a step away from God.

In His supreme goodness, however, God gave mankind a second chance. He promised that in time He would send a Redeemer, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity. And, on the first Christmas, she only begotten Son of the Father, made His entry into the world as the Son of the Virgin Mary.

As God and Man He came to the world to teach the world the way to God. He came to teach the world the way to God. He came to teach the world the way to God. He came to teach the world the way to God.

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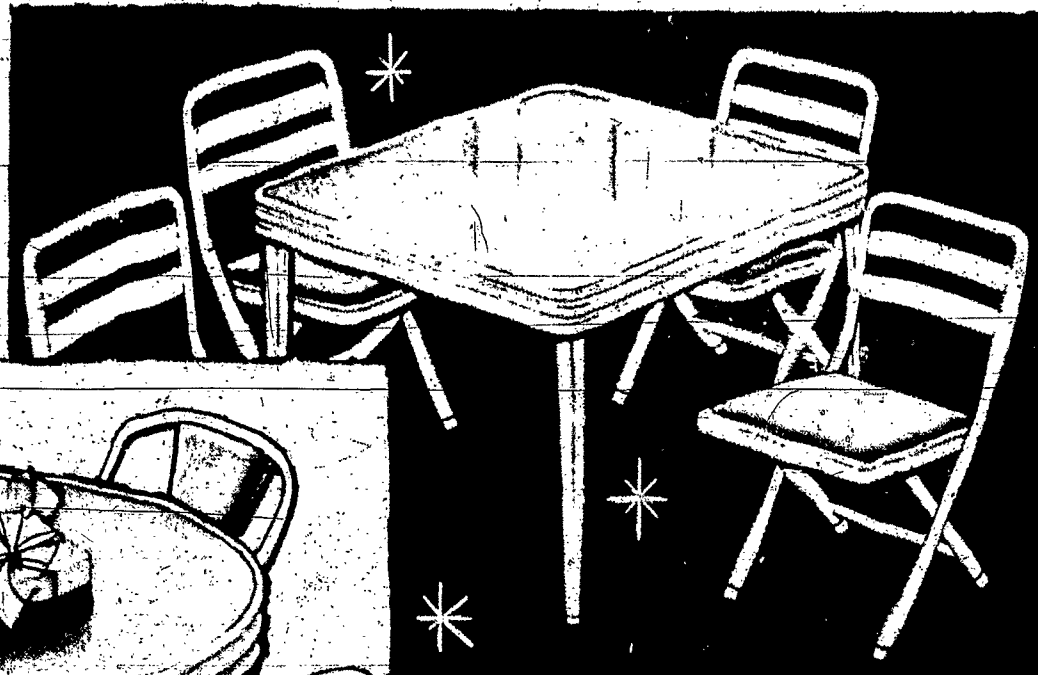
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