

Ukrainian Prelate Sainthood Studied

ROME—(NC)—The diocesan process for the beatification of Archbishop Andrew Szeptycky, who defended the rights of the Church against the Soviets in eastern Poland in the 1940's, has been opened at the Tribunal of the Vicariate of Rome.

ARCHBISHOP Szeptycky died on November 2, 1944.

From the time the Russians seized the eastern Polish section of Galicia at the beginning of World War II, Archbishop Szeptycky, Ruthenian Rite Metropolitan of Lvov, fought to preserve the rights of the Church against communist pressure and persecution.

The diocesan process here was presided over by Archbishop Luigi Traglia, Vicegerent of Rome. He was assisted by Archbishop Ivan Bucko, Apostolic Visitor to Ukrainians living in eastern European countries, who had been an Auxiliary of Archbishop Szeptycky.

Papal Bull

From America

Rome—(NC)—Eleven pure bred helters and a bull arrived here by special plane as a gift from American Catholics to the papal model farm at Castelgandolfo.

These Aberdeen Angus cattle were accompanied by Don Houston of Dunlap, Iowa, on whose farm the animals were kept prior to their departure for Italy.

The idea of the gift originated with Msgr. Luigi Ligutti, executive director of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference.



Venezuela Christmas Customs

Christmas customs vary from country to country. In Venezuela—where Christmas comes in summer time—the holiday is observed by roller skating in the streets and with big banquets featuring spicy foods like "hallacas"—fruits and vegetables wrapped in banana leaves. A novena of "aguinaldo"

Masses starts Dec. 16 at 4 a.m. and climaxes with midnight Masses starts Dec. 16 at 4 a.m., and climaxes with midnight Mass Christmas. Aquinaldo is the Venezuelan name for their rhythmic carols. (Creole Co. Photo).



Moscow Radio Blasts Missions

New York—(NC)—A bitter attack on the work of American missionaries in Africa recently was broadcast by Moscow Radio which accused them of pursuing "egotistical aims" and of attempting to sell American life as superior to any other.

Missions

here by Radio Liberation, which broadcasts to the Soviet Union and monitors Soviet programs.

According to Radio Liberation, which has broadcasting facilities in Munich, Germany, the Soviet commentary lumped American missionaries together "without regard for denominations."

GOD LOVE YOU!

By MOST REV. FULTON J. SHEEN

PAGANS FIGURE more prominently in the Christmas story than the Jews. First, it was a pagan Emperor, Caesar Augustus, who became the instrument of God for fulfilling the old prophecy of Micah that God would become man in the village of Bethlehem. Little did the Roman Caesar Augustus know that when he ordered everyone in the Empire to enroll in his own city, that Joseph and Mary, who belonged to the royal line of King David, would have to journey to David's birthplace of Bethlehem to register.

THEN TOO, there were the three pagan Wise Men who traveled across a desert to find Wisdom cradled in a manger. Though Simeon was a Jew, he told Mary that the Divine Child would be a "Light to the Gentiles." Even the Angels who announced the Birth of Jesus to the shepherds said that the Babe came to bring peace to "men who are God's friends." This opened salvation not to one race or people, but to all who were willing to receive the Gift of God.

WHY DID THE PAGANS figure so prominently in the First Christmas if it was not to give promise to what we know today as the mission lands? If God used the pagan Augustus, who killed three hundred Senators, to bring Mary to Bethlehem, why could He not use Miao of China, who killed three hundred missionaries, to prepare the way for Christ in China? If God used a star to bring the Kings of the East to the crib, why could He not bring the tribal kings of Africa to the King of Kings?

SHALL WE WHO kneel at the manger at Christmas embrace the Shepherd who came of "our own country" and ignore the Wise Men who came in distant mission lands to seek the Wisdom of God in the flesh? Would not you regard the crib in your Church or your house at Christmas a blurred picture of the truth if only the Shepherds were there and not the Magi? Have you celebrated Christmas by giving gifts to those who are at home while forgetting the Japanese, the Koreans, the Africans, the Indians who are still following the star? After all, it was the mission land visitors who brought gifts to the Child; there is no evidence the Shepherds brought a lamb.

HOW EMBARRASSING it is at Christmas to receive a beautiful gift from Aunt Rebecca knowing that you failed to send her even a card. But to those who are "God's friends" it is more embarrassing to have forgotten the pagans from the mission lands. Make up for it now; sit down and send gifts to the Wise Men of Christ through His Society for the Propagation of the Faith, by burning the frankincense of worship to the Babe while offering the myrrh of sacrifice. You gave gifts to all your children; why not gifts to all God's children, even those in the foreign missions.

GOD LOVE YOU to Mr. and Mrs. E.S.H. "I am making it my business to give to the missions every Christmas. Here is \$5." . . . to C.T. for \$10 "I saved this by not eating in a restaurant on a recent trip." . . . to Anna for \$2 "Whenever I spend, I look for a bargain; even when the money is for charity. Accept my thanks for providing me with a bargain that just can't be beat." . . . GOD LOVE YOU to all those who send their Christmas Club money to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

START THE NEW YEAR right by saying the WORLD MISSION ROSARY. At your request and a \$2 offering, we will send you one blessed by Bishop Sheen.

Cut out this column, pin your sacrifice to it and mail it to Most Rev. Fulton J. Sheen, National Director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, 366 Fifth Avenue, New York 18, N.Y., or your Diocesan Director, Rev. George S. Wood, 50 Chestnut Street, Rochester 4, New York.

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BOOK SHELF

By Betty Doyle Schwab, Nazareth College '55

"The Catholic Concept of Love and Marriage," compiled and edited by Ralph L. Woods, J. B. Lippincott Company, 285 pp., 1958, \$3.95.

This anthology of writings on Catholic love and marriage is well selected and attractively presented by Ralph L. Woods, an editor of experience and ability.

Mr. Woods has gathered the best of expressed thought by authors from many periods of time. He has divided his book into four sections: Love and Marriage, Husband and Wife, Parents and Children and The Family.

Each of these divisions contains essays, articles and excerpts, many of them beautifully written, all of them worth reading.

There is hardly a question in regard to the Catholic teaching of love, marriage, education of children and family life that is not touched on in this book. To say that all such questions are fully answered would be an exaggeration but that is not the scope of the book.

Mr. Woods has done well to put into one volume so many ideas. It is not an encyclopedia on the subject; it is rather a collection that is thought provoking, interesting and an invitation to further reading.

THE AUTHORS are an impressive list. Among them are Popes Leo XIII, Pius XI and Pius XII, St. John Chrysostom, St. Francis De Sales, St. Thomas Aquinas, Jacques Maritain, Bishop Fulton J. Sheen, Gerard Vann, Dr. Peter Farrell, Missie Ward, Frank Sheen and Phyllis McKinley.

The opening piece, "Love and Marriage Implanted by God from the Beginning" by St. John Chrysostom shows the beginning

COURIER-JOURNAL
Friday, December 19, 1958

Love And Marriage

Monsignor Funke Dies Suddenly

Monsignor Walter A. Funke, 59, former state chaplain of the Knights of Columbus who visited the Diocese of Rochester to speak on several occasions, died of a heart attack, Dec. 3, 1958 in Ogdenburg.

He had served as pastor of St. Patrick Church, Hogansburg, where a Requiem High Mass was celebrated on Saturday, Dec. 13. A Pontifical Mass of Requiem was offered in St. Monica Church, New York City by Auxiliary Bishop James H. Griffiths at funeral services, Dec. 9.

Laymen Procession

Calcutta—(NC)—Some 14,000 laymen took part in a mile-long Eucharistic procession through Hindu sections of Calcutta.

Paris Medal Chapel Draws 900 Thousand

Paris—(RNS)—The medal chapel in Paris visited by the greatest number of people last year was the chapel in the Rue de Bac where, in 1837, St. Catherine Labouré saw a series of apparitions of the Blessed Virgin.

SOME 900,000 visitors were recorded and 10,000 Masses were celebrated at the chapel in 1957, according to official figures just published.

Until now the Mona Lisa in the Louvre has attracted the record number of visitors in one year—some 650,000.

St. Catherine Labouré, a Sister of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, was born in 1806 and died in 1881. In one of her appearances to the Saint, the Blessed Virgin revealed the form and elements of the Miraculous Medal, which was first struck in 1832. St. Catherine was canonized by Pope Pius XII in 1947.

Prelate Endorses Anti-Bias Bill

St. Louis—(RNS)—Archbishop Joseph E. Ritter of St. Louis gave strong public endorsement of a bill pending before the Board of Aldermen which would prohibit discrimination against Negroes in St. Louis business establishments.

"All civil officials," the prelate said, "have the responsibility before God, in justice as well as in charity, to recognize the dignity of all men without discrimination."

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