

Church More Alive Than Ever

Bishop Kearney received the blessing of Pope John for himself and this Diocese in an audience at the Vatican on Saturday.

This bond of unity between the Diocese of Rochester and the See of St. Peter is far more than a mere ecclesiastical formality.

The life of the Church, vital as it is in each humble member, is dramatized best in the activities of the Pope as supreme shepherd of 500 million Catholics.

According to Catholic belief, the Holy Father is not only an important world leader. He is primarily, as his title indicates, a father to the family of God on earth. As loyal sons and daughters of the Church, we look to him for counsel and example.

Each week news reports chronicle day by day his words and his work. At first glance, the reports appear as a jumble of disconnected events. Faith, however, discerns the thread which gives them unity.

During the past week, for example, Pope John spoke to an estimated 250,000 people ranging in rank from a Moslem king to peasant farmers of his home town Bergamo.

The king was young Hussein of Jordan who thanked the Pontiff for ten years of Catholic Church aid to refugee Arabs. The Bergamo peasants brought their eminent townsman a \$5,000 new crown — originally intended to be worth twice that amount until the Pope insisted at least \$5,000 be given to charity.

He began this week by venerating newly beatified Mother Marguerite d'Youville at a Vatican basilica ceremony Sunday afternoon. He spent a half hour in prayer with 18 cardinals and several thousand pilgrims to honor the Canadian born nun.

A week ago today the Pope addressed 40,000 workers — the story on page one of this week's Courier Journal.

Later that day he visited a new church in a suburb of Rome dedicated to St. John Bosco. A crowd of 100,000 were on hand to greet him and following prayers in the church he told the people, "The Catholic Church is more alive today than ever. Those who have renounced the Church for the sake of money or power are unable to find peace. We must feel pity for them." His remarks had obvious reference to the late Mussolini and his fascist whose world exhibition buildings were built in the same suburb where the new church now stands.

Saturday he gave an audience to 1,000 married couples from France and spoke to them in their native language urging them to promote Christian family living.

He next talked to Italian athletes and told them the discipline and teamwork of sports teach Christian virtues of obedience and mutual charity.

In audiences granted other groups during this week the Pontiff asked the sick people of the world to offer their prayers and sufferings for the missions — a contribution better than financial aid, he said.

He told Spanish seminarians in Rome to attend his Mass one morning that "truth and charity" must characterize the life of priests. He wrote a letter to Italy's theater operators encouraging them to show pictures which "strengthen habits of honesty and right living."

He also held private interviews with several American bishops in Rome for their "ad limina" visit, appointed bishops to Naples in Italy, to two eastern rite dioceses in Argentina and directed bishops in charge of military units to make "ad limina" reports to Rome as do other bishops.

In addition to these duties, the Pope met with cardinals and other Vatican officials for routine Church administration. His day begins with his morning Mass and then he assists at Mass and hears a sermon — a practice he initiated for May and wants followed throughout the world by all Catholics.

His schedule is formidable for a man half his age but the seventy-eight year old head of the Church smiles at his burdens. His duties are varied and numerous but they prove, as he said, the Church "is alive."

During these days Ascension-to-Pentecost we recall how the first Christians locked themselves away in Jerusalem awaiting the coming of the Holy Spirit. That Holy Spirit, obviously, still gives life to the Church and gives it abundantly.

SERMONETTE

Hypocrite?
By THE REV. JAMES D. MOWATY

As adroitly as a strange alley cat avoids the neighborhood sidewalk we avoid certain labels. The very thought of being considered a hypocrite makes us squirm.

What is so terrible about being called a hypocrite?

The word bundles up in one little letter the totality of what we do not want to be... deceitful, dishonest, dissembling, cheating, lying.

Christ had a special term for the hypocrite... white sepulchres, he called them. And our stomachs, lungs when we think of what goes on inside a sepulchre even though it may be white on the outside.

What is hypocrisy?

It is nothing more or less than trying to be something other than what we really are for an unworthy motive. If we try to be something better for a worthy motive that is not hypocrisy. That is the first step to conversion. But palming oneself off as something better than what we are just to make an impression is hypocrisy.

The reason for the breakdown of many marriages today in our society is rooted in hypocrisy. Two young people meet and immediately begin to put on an act to impress each other. If he would talk with her little brother for 10 minutes he would learn more about her faults than he will find out from her in 10 weeks. If she would have a heart to heart talk with his mother she would learn things that he could not even know about himself. But courtship blossoms in a game of pretending. Marriage follows and the actors are exposed. Unless good basic characters are underneath all the sham then the marriage is headed for the divorce court.

If we are touched by hypocrisy in any way it is a great relief to realize that we do not have to change what we are doing. As long as what we do is good we need only to change the motive behind our actions. And then an act which was despicable becomes one to be admired simply because it is the real thing.

Let's examine our motives for action. Then we will know whether or not we must change it to avoid being labelled... even if only by ourselves.



Pope John has asked Catholics of the world to pray during May for the success of the 1961 ecumenical council. The council's goal will be fulfillment of our Lord's prayer that there may be "but one fold and one shepherd." The Holy Father especially requested that the Ascension-to-Pentecost novena be a time of particular fervor. The Church's relentless restlessness

to bring more and more souls to the knowledge and love of the Saviour prompts missionaries like Dominican Father Terence Quinn to leave his New York home for a parish in West Pakistan. The least — and the most — we can do is pray sincerely for the triumph of the Church's search for souls and unity.

Is Castro A Communist?

By JIM FONTAINE
(N.C.W.C. News Service)

Havana — Cuba's communists, now that they have been able to operate freely for almost four months, are making considerable gains among the nation's workers, soldiers, students and peasants.

But the growing impact of Catholic participation in the nation's affairs is showing that the Red drive can be neutralized.

Moreover, the revolutionary regime of Fidel Castro that won power at the beginning of the year is basically opposed to Marxism. Premier Castro himself has declared on many occasions, both before and during his trip to the U.S., that neither he nor his 20th July Movement is communist.

Yet the regime has adopted a policy of tolerance toward the Reds. It has accepted cooperation from some members of the People's Socialist (Communist) Party (PSP) and stated that it allows the party to exist openly because all Cubans have a constitutional "right to dissent."

Thus at the present time the communists are able to wage a vigorous propaganda campaign that includes virulent attacks on the Church and tirades against "Yankee imperialism."

Red agitators are actively stirring up unrest among workers and communist agents have infiltrated some labor unions. Their influence was recently felt in violent strikes that were criticized by a government spokesman, Raul Castro, the Premier's brother.

Despite this government criticism, communist cells are operating openly among revolutionary soldiers, especially here in Havana, and also in important government departments.

At the same time Marxism is having a revival among a number of intellectuals and, through their efforts, among many university students.

Aside from the 26th of July Movement, which has absorbed all political groups not accused of collaborating with ousted dictator, Fulgencio Batista, the PSP is the only active political party in the country. During World War II it claimed a membership of 100,000 but later declined to around 10,000. Today reports estimate the total at about 25,000.

In spite of the party's recent growth, there are signs that the Red drive is being blunted.

The communists, for example, sent their first propaganda team—including their top speaker, Salvador Garcia Aguero — on a tour of Oriente province. While they were holding a rally at Guantánamo, people cut the lines

An On-The-Spot Report Of Red Gains In Cuba

powering the public address system. In the poor section of Santiago—in the past a Red hotbed — the nation's meeting had to be postponed for an hour because too few people showed up. When it was finally held during rush hour, the Red's leading speaker had only 40 listeners.

The communists have met similar setbacks in other places.

CUBAN LABOR leaders, now busy campaigning prior to union elections, see little danger in the communist drive. They estimate that the Reds may score victories in about 10 unions — not including any vital ones — and say that their total percentage of the vote will be small.

CATHOLIC YOUTH leaders in both Santiago and Manzanillo have thwarted communist efforts to set up youth fronts. They either denounced the fronts as "phony" organizations or infiltrated them and successfully neutralized the Reds.

As a result of these developments Catholic observers here can not minimize the communist threat and noting that the fields of education and labor will bear special watching, disagree with reports stating that the Reds have launched a successful drive.

The overall picture in Cuba at the moment is one of a victory for the communists, trying in difficult circumstances to achieve national unity and needed social, economic and political reforms against the opposition of both the extreme right and the extreme left.

It is opposed by the right because vested interests have been endangered. It faces leftist enemy because the Reds do not want reforms. As always, their aim is class struggle and the eventual dictatorship of the proletariat.

What worries most Catholic observers here is the apparent naivete of Premier Castro and some of his followers in allowing the Communist Party to have a free hand, perhaps in the hope of checking communism better if it is out in the open. These Catholics fear that by trying to avoid an open break with the communists, Castro's regime may sooner or later be overwhelmed by the concessions given to Red leaders.

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Joseph Breig's Column

Song For May

God is like a father who wants his children to rise to the summit of accomplishment and nobility. In simplest terms, He is like a parent who withdraws his finger from us only when we are old enough to walk on our own.

He is like a father and mother who bless their sons and daughters and send them forth to work, to dare to aspire and to achieve greatly.

God wills for each of us all, the true success of which we are capable. His desire is to praise us for eternity even as we praise Him.

We sing His wisdom and goodness; He will sing (if I may so express it) our struggles and striving, our courage, our getting up and going on our patience in adversity, our humility in triumph. He has told us that He wants to say to us: "Well done, good and faithful servant."

God could do everything Himself, and leave nothing to us. But then we would owe no merit; we could not have the humble pride of having made something of ourselves with His help.

God, you might say, has a profound respect for our dignity as beings who can know good from evil, and choose good. He made each of us to be King over the complex kingdom of self; to be emperor in the empire of thoughts and emotions and talents that each of us is.

God could have redeemed us from sin merely by willing our redemption. He chose instead to take up the burden Himself, and yet to lay it on the shoulders of man — first of all upon the Man who was God incarnate but human too; second upon the woman He selected for mothering Him in the flesh, and after that upon every one of us who will have the courage and love to enter into this unthinkably noble work of God and man together.

Helein lies in answer to the mystery of St. Paul's saying that he filled up in himself what was wanting in the sufferings of Christ. From Adam to the last child who will be born into the world, there is a glorious role for every one who will not refuse it.

All this seems hidden from us until we stop to look steadily at Mary the Virgin.

When we do that, a clarity comes upon us, and we feel a kind of dawning about embracing the inscrutable goodness of God's plan for mankind.

OUR ADMIRATION and affection for Mary — call it reverence or veneration too — tends to take childlike form in the month of May. This is because most of us are not given to deep thought; also because we are happily surrounded by children and are lifted up by their innocence, and because finally, May is a child of a month, bringing new flowers.

As May comes, we think of Our Lady as young as a maiden, not yet mother. But Mary is immensely more than our vision of her as slender, exquisitely lovely, and good in great simplicity. She endured far more for God and for us than we can begin to grasp with our little knowledge, our little holiness, our small experience of tribulation. She towers spiritually so far above us that we can hardly see the lines of her face; and yet she bends and puts her arms around us.

MARY ROSE to state that the piety she shows because in her fullness of God's grace she was not afraid to walk with God wherever His unthinkable goodness led, even to the shocking reality of God for her incarnate Son tormented to death.

Everything that God asked of Mary, she gave until nothing was left to give. In that giving she earned her God-hatred and her honor — forever as queen of all creation beside Christ her King and ours.

In perceiving this secret of Mary's sanctity, we perceive the secret of our own. We pierce the mystery of God's desire that we achieve all that He made us capable of achieving.

Sometimes it seems that He stands apart and leaves everything to us; we plod through mist and darkness, we fall and try again; we fall and rise and stagger on.

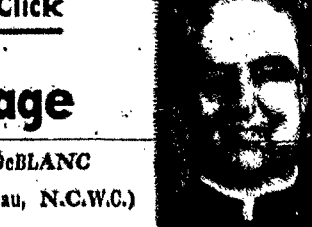
All the time, God is there with us and in us, loving us with a boundless love and leading us toward a triumph that He wants to be our triumph as much as His.

May is a month for patience and rejoicing; but like all other months it is a month for courage also.

Making Marriage Click

God's Image

By MGR. IRVING A. DEBLANC
(Director, Family Life Bureau, N.C.W.C.)



The thunder over the Mountain of Sinai taught the early Hebrews of the power of God. A myriad of stars in the heaven have taught the shepherds of all ages how wonderful was the Creator. Every creature reveals a message from the Almighty.

This is especially true of the father of a family. This message from God is more essential, weightier, richer than that which is revealed by the thunder or the stars.

The fatherhood of a man is intended to reveal the fatherhood of God. This earthly father is intended to be an image of the heavenly Father.

It was to man as father, as co-creator, that God gave his greatest confidence, his greatest power, his greatest resemblance. That is why children use the same title of "father" for both Him upon whom they call for divine aid and him upon whom they depend for an earthly living.

When Our Lord spoke of earthly fathers, it was with a tone of tenderness. It was with a knowledge how to give good things to your children? He said, and then went on lovingly to tell the masterpiece of a story of the father who had two sons.

This warmth is the echo of his own Father and which he also found maybe echoed so poorly, yet authentically, in the men of Palestine. These fathers had still remained good images of the Father, in spite of their human failings. Christ could give them a picture of the Father in Heaven and still point to the earthly fathers around him and still not risk grave misrepresentation.

Our Lord still pleads with earthly fathers that they give an authentic picture of the Heavenly Father and not obliterate the face of God from the minds of their children. He goes even farther and

says: "Be ye perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect."

Urgent and vitally necessary as it is, the main concern of a father is not to struggle day after day merely to fill empty stomachs; he has a more important function which is to be a good religious leader and a good educator. He must present to his household a complete picture of the Father in Heaven.

As the Father is wise so must he be, as the Father provides so must he, as the Father inspires so must he, as the Father is effusive so must he, as the Father is merciful and understanding and loving so must he. Fortunately the father whose son can say at evening prayers, "O Father in Heaven whom my father here imitates and adores so well!"

By understanding his role as a father a man then disposes his children little by little toward a final devotion to God Himself. He prepares them in a favorable climate to grow in the three great theological virtues of Faith, hope and charity. This is emphasized in an extraordinary book entitled "Marriage is Holy" by Fr. Caffarel, (Fides Company).

If a father removes even the possibility of lies from his speech; if his actions betray no deceit, then the confidence he wins from his children — a preparation for the faith they will have in their heavenly Father.

If a father can effectively respond to the wishes of his children, if he can be generous when they request it; if he wins their confidence he not only becomes an image of God, but also prepares his children to accept the theological virtue of hope.

As for charity — if a father loves his children with warmth and devotion, if he is always approachable, if he is an incentive and preparation for their virtue of charity,

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