

# SERMONETTE

A Job To Do  
By Rev. Richard Madden, O.C.D.

Strange things have been happening in the pulpit of the Church of St. Catherine in Indianapolis. The microphone of the amplifying system has been talking back. Well, not really talking back but instead of remaining a mike to pick up the voice of the preacher it has been acting like a radio receiver.



By some electronic quirk or call it what you will this mike tunes itself in on nearby radio stations. No one has offered an explanation. But if that mike doesn't behave itself it will be looking for another pulpit.

Imagine just how embarrassing it can be for the priest when he reaches a dramatic point in his sermon and then pauses for effect. Just at that moment of perfect silence a rumbling "rock and roll" despatcher announcing a raid breaks in. A couple of such experiences will shake up the best of speakers.

A mike is ordinarily a most useful instrument but it should make like a mike. Like a good husband it should listen and not talk back. Every created object is good only in as much as it accomplishes what it is made to accomplish. No matter how extraordinary the phenomenon it produces may be, if it does not do what it is supposed to do, it needs fixing. It may be a collector's item or a candidate for Smithsonian immortality but it is not useful.

If we have an apple tree in our backyard which produces beautiful peaches on Christmas morning we may have a real news item but we haven't got much of an apple tree. In fact as an apple tree our arboreal oddity is a big flop. It does not produce apples and more than that we can't depend on it. Next Easter it may blossom forth with walnuts.

How about us? God put us on this earth to accomplish certain things. If we do this, even though no one may take notice of the fact, we will be a success. But even if we make the headlines in the newspapers doing things that God did not intend for us to do, we are just one big flop.

This will be the measure of our success, then: Are we doing what God intended us to do?

## 'Only In Anger'

# Negative Moods Hide Church

New York — (RNS) — Many Non-Catholics see the Roman Catholic Church most often in its "negative moods," the editor of The Pilot, official weekly of the Boston archdiocese, declared. He urged the laity to recognize, out of step with the twentieth century, a "chlorotic" public image.

Msgr. Francis J. Lally, addressing the annual communion breakfast of the Ladies of Charity of New York Catholic Churches, said that many persons "see us condemning and frowning, they see us as censorious and authoritarian."

"To be sure," he said, "there is a place and necessity for this in the life of the Church — the 'Christ who' have the money-changers from the temple and cursed the barren fig tree is as real as the Christ of Bethlehem and the beatitudes."

"But to see Christ only in anger is not to see the whole Christ, and to see His Church only in its disciplinary decrees is not to see the whole Church either."

Msgr. Lally said that many persons still view the Church as an "immigrant, even foreign, institution of growing immensity only gradually reconciling itself to the American way. Such an image, he said, can make misunderstandings almost inevitable."

The prelate said that other Non-Catholics see the Church in terms of power instead of salvation. "They see our colorful processions and our dignified liturgy," he continued, "which have something of the historic about them, and they are impressed and even wonder if we Rome."



## Italy Prime Minister At Capital

Washington — (RNS) — Italy's visiting Prime Minister Antonio Segni bows as he is introduced by Vice President Richard Nixon to Archbishop Egidio Vagnozzi, Apostolic Delegate to the U.S., at a reception in Washington. Mr. Segni earlier had a long conference with President Eisenhower.

### BOOK SHELF

## Revolt in Poland

By SISTER MARGARET TERESA  
Nazareth College

The Frozen Revolution: Poland, a Study in Communist Decay, by Frank Gibney, Farrar, Straus '59. 268 pp. with index. \$4.75.

Frank Gibney, one of the essential body of rational writers and author of The Gentlemen of Japan, brings to this account of the Cardinal Wyszynski — Premier Gomułka's ministerial success in the cold war's roughest game his deepest interest and his hardest-working pen.

Mr. Gibney was more than curious about this country that the Western powers let down so heavily, over whose death-throats in Warsaw of '48 the Russians watched so complacently — who still like the Americans so over-cautious and slow in helping (as we do in Poland and Hungary take us longer). Woodrow Wilson made Poland independent — and Poles are free men — liberally. Maybe that's why they like us. Mr. Gibney stayed and studied the past and present of the present freedom-fighters in the October '56 revolt. The tragic Hungarian moment felt the wanting to every stream throughout.

This magnificent report, with its generalizing single-phrase recall to older history, to other peoples, is organized as follows: First, a quick review of country and people and Communist domination. The Making of an October Day. Then the history of a nation, dedicated Gomułka, The Country Communist and How He Grew.

Then, the Polish Communist Party as Gomułka shaped it after his imprisonment, and the peculiar sort of buffer it is between numerous Soviet policies and the Polish (and Catholic) people — a chapter called "The Party on the Operating Table," in which Gomułka discovers his limitations. Then "The End of the World," the point of freedom to which the University students reached even under total Communist instructions.

It can quote Mr. Gibney's words on Kolkowski, the leader of these young Marxists: "Working with no more encouragement than his own reason, he stropped away the fat. Each of his environment and charged his way back toward

### BOOK SHELF

## Nuns To Work In Factories

Madrid — (RNS) — Spanish Roman Catholic authorities are planning a special apostolate in factories for which specially trained nuns and women belonging to secular institutes will be recruited.

Details of the program were announced by Father Julian Ocasna, director of a national secretariate set up to organize courses in which the volunteers will be trained in various skilled trades, including wood-turning and machine tool work, so that they can get jobs and thus exercise a Christian influence on their fellow-workers.

## Priest Assigned To Islam Center

Cleveland — (RNS) — Father Ferris A. Kielem, C.S.C., of Cleveland, a former pastor of the Maronite Rite, has been assigned to the staff of the new Islamic center being established at Notre Dame University in Dacca, Pakistan.

## Nations Urged

# Open Doors To Immigrants

Madrid — (RNS) — Marcello Cardinal Mimmi, secretary of the Sacred Consistorial Congregation, appealed to underpopulated countries to open their doors to the world's 60 million refugees.

He addressed diocesan delegates who met to discuss emigration problems in this country. The sessions took place at the Benedictine Abbey attached to the Civil War Memorial which was inaugurated last April in the Valley of the Fallen some 25 miles northwest of Madrid.

Cardinal Mimmi said that while emigration was a remedy for countries suffering from overpopulation, it was necessary to guard against emigrants being separated from their families or the influence of the Church.

## Ten Red Years In China

# Human Values Vanish

Vatican City — (RNS) — The Vatican Radio, in a special broadcast, voiced the hope that the tenth anniversary of the Communist regime in China will mark a new era of respect for personal, spiritual and religious values as well as of economic advancement.

The broadcast coincided with celebrations in Peking which the station said had been marked by speeches "repeating the well-worn propaganda themes heard over the last ten years."

"Although some mistakes in economic planning have been admitted by the Communist regime," the station said, "it must be conceded that noteworthy economic and industrial improvements have been achieved in China."

"But these conquests have been made at a heavy price. Six hundred million Chinese have been regimented into what can be termed a sentence of permanent hard labor. Human values have vanished. Only production figures remain."

Citing official proclamations that "religion no longer exists in China," the Vatican Radio stressed that this boast means the Chinese of the present generation have become lost in a great machine and "their culture, spiritual sensitivity and personal initiative and freedom have been suppressed."

"The sorry situation of the Chinese Catholics," it added, "is one of the greatest preoccupations of the Holy Father. From the very first days of his pontificate, Pope John XXIII has referred to the persecutions being carried out in the country. In this moment of the tenth anniversary celebrations, it is to be hoped that, in addition to the new economic efforts the country is going to make, a new era of respect for personal, spiritual and religious values will open."

San Antonio — (RNS) — An authority on labor-management relations blamed Catholics and other Christians for being negligent of the "little people" and attributed such negligence to present world tensions.

By the "little people," said Father L. J. Twomey, S.J., director of the Institute of Industrial Relations at Loyola University, New Orleans, are found particularly in the small countries in the Far East and in Africa. He spoke to a convention of the Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Youth.

"We continue to exploit the Negro religiously, economically, educationally and culturally. Do we really believe that all men are created equal?" he asked.

Father Twomey said there also are the "little people" who came from other countries — such as braceros — to labor under intolerable conditions and for very low wages.

"And this is happening among people who claim to be good for the world only for white people, Christians," he charged.

THIS SUNDAY . . . See

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