Rites To Honor Slovak Victims Of Red Regime

Perth Amboy —(RNS)— A Solemn Mass for the suffering people of Communist-dominated Slovakia will be offered in Holy Trinity church here on Slovak Independence Day, March 20, which marks the 21st anniversary of the establishment of the Slovak Republic.

The Mass, sponsored by the Eastern District of the Slovak League of America, will be offered by Father Michael J. Churak, pastor of the church.

GOD LOVE YOU!

By MOST REV. FULTON J. SHEEN

★ ★ ★

"Every victim must be seasoned with salt." (Mark 9/48). This saying of Our Lord is a text from the Old Testament: "Whatever sacrifice thou offerest, it is to be seasoned with salt." (Levit. 2/13). The meaning is that a Christian does not offer meat, such as sheep and goats and bullocks, as was done in the Old Testament; he offers himself. As St. Paul said: "Offer up your bodies as a living sacrifice, consecrated to God and worthy of His acceptance" (Rom. 12/1). The salt here means sacrifice because there is in us a principle of corruption.

St. Peter, who heard Our Lord speak these words, develops the idea of sacrifice in his first Epistle, saying that if Christ Who was sinless was salted with the fire of sacrifice, so we must be salted with self-denial. "Christ's mortal nature, then, has been crucified, and you must offer yourselves with the same intention." The Christian law of life is to submit to the fiery cleansing.

We happen to live in a world where selfishness and love of the dollar is highly valued; our neighbors are less interested in the idea that "Life is worth living" than they are in the idea that 'Life is worth having.' We who have been called to Christ cannot entwine our hearts with the Crucified Lord—unless we salt our prayers, our novenas, our assistance at Mass, etc. with sacrifice. And if there were a better place to send sacrifice than to give it to the Holy Father to help support 135,000 missionaries — we would recommend it to you. Africa, Asia needs salt — and the salt is your sacrifice.

GOD LOVE YOU to Miss D.F. for $50 "Our Lord has been very good to me in 1959. In addition to many other graces and blessings, I have just received an increase in salary. In order to express my gratitude to the Sacred Heart for all He has given me, I would like to give said amount to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith." . . . to J.L.M. for $5 "I gave up my afternoon snack for one month. Here is the savings!" . . . to J.L. for $5 "I am sixteen years old and promised St. Jude this amount if he granted a special intention. I hope your good works are kept up in these lands that need so much." . . . to Mrs. C.L. for $15 "This is half of my weekly pay check. In Thanksgiving for the many graces I have received, it is for the foreign missions."

You should be color conscious when it is a means of praying for 1,100,000,000 pagans throughout the world. Let your eyes know what your hand is doing when you say the Rosary. As your hand moves along the beads of the World Mission Rosary, your eyes pick out the color of each decade and bring to your mind and prayers the pagans in the different mission lands. Enclose your request for a World Mission Rosary with your sacrifice of $2 and we will send one to you.

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 1x, N.Y., or your Diocesan Director Rev. George S. Wood 50 Chestnut Street, Rochester 4, New York.

BOOK SHELF

Busy Martha

By SISTER MARGARET TERESA
Nazareth College

Martha, Martha, A Biblical Novel' by Patricia McGerr. Kenedy '60. 276 pp. $3.95.

This is the day-by-day, meal-by-meal story of the Martha our Lord immortally characterized when He refused to make Mary bestir herself. This is the Martha who just couldn't stand the unfairness of her labors another minute without speaking out. At this point in her life, Martha is no saint.

In this story, certainly, she is no saint from the beginning to (almost) the end. She is four years older than the beautiful pet, Mary, who brings her up, coaxes the delicate and studious Lazarus along, cares magnificently for her father and his household until he dies—but in the doing, she is iron-handed, quick-tongued, house-proud, rash in judgment, mulish to a degree that destroys her own happiness.

And the woes she brings down on her head and Mary's are told with a liveliness that convinces.

You grow to like Martha, you see her confounded by her own haste, her own ill judgment; you pity her for the hard labors that both please and offend, and reduce her at the end of many a day to tears.

You know she will see the truth finally, at the Cross — and at last, on the morning of the Resurrection, you run with her, not to Jesus, but to that house He will surely visit. "His mother's there, she reminded herself, and began to move with all speed. I must make preparations for his coming."

Martha dear—now that you begin to be a saint, how perfect that you do it your own way, with housework!

But Martha's acknowledgment of her faulty disposition and all its consequences has been, you feel, postponed so long, and now is only the briefest moment, hardly penetrating the deeps of her heart . . . and then you wake up.

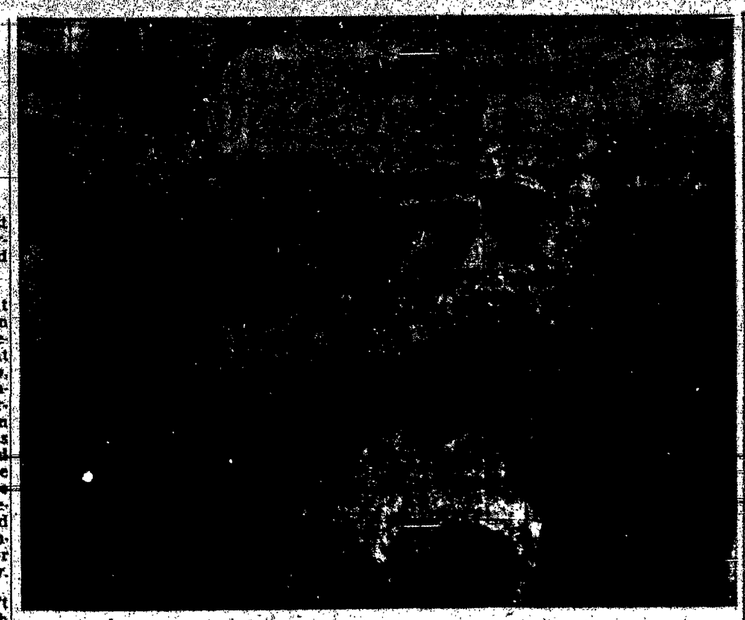
Isn't the best of the story just this? When do we see ourselves as "others see us?" Pretty close to the end — and once in a while in between, in a clouded fashion?

And can we bear the picture for more than a minute? that we, we ourselves, have made others less kind and good than they might have been if companioned with better people!

So we too, like Martha, had best hustle off to do what we can with our small talent, lest our holy meditation on ourselves turn into another good old string of rash judgments.

Miss McGerr has ended it right. She has told it right in the main. I cannot really believe in Mary's silly dance at the feast of Cana. (She is too, too much the incredibly naughty child here), but this one personal veto is overwhelmed in the swift succession of events strongly handled: the ups and downs of Martha's betrothal, the tragedy of her good Pappus, the reverent and finely imagined reports of our Lord's sermons and doings. Our Lord and His Mother are a nimbus of splendor over all the events of the story.

People named Martha aren't going to like the tie-up with Judas Iscariot. He has really nobody to listen to his sharp analysis of those blundering apostles but Martha — and to her he is also able to speak of his love for Jesus. Perhaps this is the finest area of realism in the novel, the gradual painting of a full-length portrait of Judas and his at-homeness with a born complainer.



U.S. Priest Visits Moslems

Lagos, Nigeria —(RNS)— Father John A. O'Brien, author and research professor at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana, talks informally with a street corner group of Moslems in Lagos, capital of Nigeria. Father O'Brien spent a month in the African country, conferring with government as well as Church officials regarding ways to speed up training of nationals to fill leadership posts after Nigeria gains independence this year.

Ancient Rites Set For New Cardinals

Vatican City — (RNS) — Tailors, jewelers, workmen and administrators are laboring at top pressure both inside and outside Vatican City to prepare for the four days of ceremony and pageantry starting March 28 when Pope John XXIII will elevate seven new cardinals.

The Pope will announce the creation of the new cardinals, who include the first Negro and the first Filipino and Japanese Princes of the Church, at a secret consistory in the Consistorial Hall of his palace attended by members of the Sacred College.

As soon as he has pronounced their names, the cardinals-designate will have become part of the new 85-member College, but the ritual marking their elevation will have just begun.

After the Pope's announcement and an allocution in which he is expected to comment on the new appointments, Vatican messengers will hurry off to the various national pontifical colleges in Rome where the new cardinals, still officially ignorant of the honor befalling them, will be waiting to hear the "news", seated on special thrones and surrounded by the seminarians and authorities of the colleges.

The new cardinals will then make formal speeches of thanks and begin receiving a stream of visitors bringing them congratulations on their appointments.

THE NEXT day, the new cardinals will spend their time alone in prayer and meditation in preparation for the solemn ceremonies still ahead.

On March 30, the Pope will personally receive them for the first time as cardinals in his Throne Room — an impressive apartment with gilded ceiling, crimson damask walls, inlaid marble floors —all rising to a climax in a golden throne canopied in red velvet.

Here the cardinals, after being announced one by one by the Vatican Master of Ceremonies, will approach the Pontiff's Throne, make a triple genuflection and finally kneel down to kiss the Pope's foot.

Still kneeling, they will receive from the Pontiff's hand their crimson biretta, a square winged hat.

The senior new cardinal — in this case, 84-year-old Luigi Cardinal Tragia, Vicegerent of Rome — will then make a speech of thanks and homage to the Pope on behalf of his colleagues.

As the new cardinals file out of the Throne Room, the Keeper of the Pope's Wardrobe will hand each of them a scarlet wool skullcap, the smallest and cheapest item of a cardinal's costly attire.

THE CLIMAX of the inauguration of the new cardinals will take place the next day at a public consistory in St. Peter's Basilica, when the Pope, seated on his throne before the altar, confers on them the Red Hat, supreme emblem of their new office.

In doing so, he will address each new cardinal with a Latin formula describing the Red Hat as "a special sign of the Cardinal's dignity, which means you must show yourself intrepid in exalting the Holy Faith, the peace and tranquility of the Christian People, the conservation and growth of the Holy Roman Church, even unto the spilling of blood."

Afterwards, the new cardinals will move in solemn procession to the Chapel of St. Petronius to prostrate themselves full length on the floor, completely covered by their purple capes, in sign of utter humility, while the old cardinals chant a Te Deum over them.

The last part of the ceremony will take place the same day at a second secret Consistory when the Pope presents the new cardinals with their topaz rings.

He also will "close and open their mouths" with a centuries-old formula stressing their duties to keep the secrets of their office and to give wise counsel to the Pope.

Subsequently, the Keeper of the Wardrobe will, with fitting ritual, deliver to the cardinals The Red Hats they symbolically received in the morning.

Some time later, the Pope will allocate to each new cardinal a church in Rome, his titular but official seat in the capital of Catholicism.

Buffalo Lad

Handicap, Spur To Work

Buffalo — (NC) — A Catholic college student here is living proof that physical handicaps can be overcome — if a man combines his other God-given talents with a true spirit of determination.

Jim Myers, an 18-year-old freshman at Canisius College, was born with only one full-length arm, and on that arm he has only two fingers. Yet, this handicap has not prevented him from becoming a top student and champion table tennis player in his own right.

On the contrary, the lack of physical means has given Jim Myers all the more determination to become a success in every venture he attempts. This determination has paid off.

The oldest of four boys, Jim lives with his family in Tonawanda, N.Y., 15 miles north of Buffalo. At Canisius, he is majoring in languages and is already a member of the dean's list.

Jim has been an altar boy since the fifth grade, active in his parish youth council, and has earned his own spending money by delivering newspapers for several years and holding other jobs. Despite his handicap, Jim has led the life of a normal Catholic boy.

"It was while I was an altar boy," Jim relates, "that I became interested in ping pong. I had difficulty at first because of my inability to serve, but I finally learned to tuck the paddle under my chin, throw the ball in the air, and swipe at it."

Although Jim has never won any individual championships in major tourneys, he was a member of his parish team that won the junior boy's championships in 1957 and in 1958. In 1957, when his team won the title, Jim advanced to the semi-finals, only to be beaten by the tourney's eventual winner. In last year's tourney, he was again beaten by the eventual winner.

Jim realized a long time ago that if he wanted to overcome his handicap, he would have to work hard at it. The effort he has put forth is reflected in his success in almost everything he undertakes — from ping pong to scholastic achievements.

"I knew my folks couldn't put me through high school and college, so I took a job delivering the Buffalo Evening News when I was in grammar school," Jim said. "I continued this work right up to the start of my freshman year at Canisius." He has also worked for the town of Tonawanda during the summers doing landscape work and park development work.

Paraguayan University

Asuncion —(RNS)— A new Catholic university was inaugurated by Church authorities here under the title of the Catholic University of Our Lady of the Assumption.

Lent Masses Downtown

Downtown Rochester churches have scheduled special Masses during Lent for the convenience of the working people and shoppers.

SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL, Mass, Monday through Friday, 6:30, 7, 7:30, 8, 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Saturdays (except Holy Saturday) 9 a.m. instead of 5:30 p.m. Confession, Monday through Friday, 7 to 7:20 a.m., 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Saturdays, 3:30 to 6 and 7:30 to 9 p.m.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, Mass, daily at 12:10 noon; Monday through Friday at 5:30 p.m. also.

ST. JOSEPH'S, Mass, every weekday, 6, 6:30, 7, 7:30, 8 a.m., 12:10 noon, and 5:25 p.m. Confession during Masses.

CORPUS CHRISTI, Mass, weekdays 12:10 noon. Monday through Friday, 5:30 p.m., also.

ST. PATRICK'S Mass, Monday through Friday, 11:45 a.m. and 12:15 noon.

OUR LADY OF VICTORY, Mass, weekdays, 11:40 a.m. and 12:10 noon. Confession during Mass.

India Votes Down Ban On Converts

New Delhi —(NC)— Indian legislators have rejected a bill aimed at curbing conversions in India.

The lower house of Parliament killed the privately introduced bill after a government spokesman, Minister of State B.N. Datar, declared that India's Constitution guarantees freedom to profess, practice and propagate any religion.

The bill's professed aim was to outlaw insincere conversions motivated by hopes for material or social advantage. But the backers of the bill indicated during the debate that they aimed at curtailing missionary activity itself.

Mr. Datar, in urging Parliament to reject the bill, said that Christianity, Islamism and Zoroastrianism are as fully Indian as Hinduism.

Order's Head To Visit U.S.

Onamia, Minn., —(NC)— The superior general of the Crosier Fathers will visit American houses of the order during the 750th anniversary of its founding.

He is Father William Van Hees, O.S.C., who resides at the Crosiers' headquarters in St. Agatha, Oudik, the Netherlands.

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