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Pope Counsels New Nation

Vatican City — (NC) — Pope John XXIII sent a message to the people of Togo on the eve of their independence wishing them well and urging them to "live together as good citizens more than ever before."

Africa's newest independent nation, Togo, was scheduled to become independent on April 27.

Noting the religious ceremonies with which independence was being launched, the Pope said "Our heart is turned with confidence and serene joy toward the African continent."

"These celebrations," he said, "reveal how the Christian Faith has penetrated souls deeply giving a precious example to other states."

THE POPE recalled the courage and sacrifice of the missionaries who have Christianized Togo in the past century and noted the rapid progress of the Faith there. He said:

"Now your bishops are rightly concerned with creating schools and your priests — those who were born in your country like those who were led there by the love of souls — every year welcome new brothers in the priesthood into their ranks."

He urged Togo Christians to be an example to their fellow countrymen in their loyalty to the duties of family, profession and civil life. He also counseled them to collaborate in their work for the new nation's prosperity.

He told them, however, to beware of illusions, "the greatest of which would be to believe that political independence solves all difficulties." He continued:

"Whatever your religion may be, whatever race you may be, you must live together as good citizens more than ever before. You must become conscious of your political and social responsibilities. You must found your national community soundly."

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Mark Hellinger Award Set

(RNS) — A journalism award honoring the memory of Mark Hellinger, newspaper columnist and motion picture producer of the 1930's and 1940's, has been instituted at St. Bonaventure (N.Y.) University.

Tide Of Conversions Result Of Lenten Mission

Montreal — (NC) — A multitude of conversions and of the return to the Faith of many lapsed Catholics resulted from the Great Mission of the Montreal archdiocese during Lent.

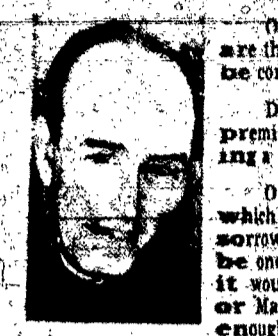
Father Gerard Lalonde, the mission director, said it is still too early to tabulate all the advantages which accrued from the mission conducted simultaneously in all of the 252 parishes of the archdiocese. Father Lalonde added there is no doubt about the mission's success.

THE NUMBER of conversions, he said, has not yet been tabulated but they were "numerous." He said that some of the lapsed Catholics who re-

SERMONETTE

HAPPY ARE THEY WHO MOURN FOR THEY SHALL BE COMFORTED. Matt. V 1
by the Rev. James D. Moriarty

The world keeps getting better all the time. Dragsters, helms bulge with products calculated to remove or prevent the pains which afflict the five dollars down will deliver the most comfortable chair of the 20th century in my opinion. Cars ride smoother. Clothes are more comfortable, food more palatable. Man apparently has overcome many discomforts of this of late.



Our Lord says however, "Happy are they who mourn for they shall be comforted."

Did he mean to place a premium on pessimism? Is he pushing a religion for sad sacks?

Our Lord knew that a religion which had nothing to say about sorrow and suffering would hardly be one for the human race. Maybe it would be all right for the moon or Mars but not here. Anyone old enough to read a daily paper knows that suffering and sorrow break through the best planned defenses of the average man.

And yet Christ in bringing His new way of life did not attempt to give an explanation of suffering and sorrow. He knew that it is easy to offer sympathy in another's sorrow. But the same words seem rapid and inadequate when we are the victims of misfortune.

Christ in the beatitudes taught us how to make use of suffering. This is much more important. There is no attempt to convince us that we should relish it. He teaches us to make it worthwhile.

It was He who uttered "Father if it be possible, let this chalice pass from me..." but that was only half the story for He immediately added, "Not my will but thine be done." If in His Divine Wisdom He could force the terrible suffering ahead on the cross the same Divine foresight told Him of the glories of the resurrection. The joy of victory would inspire the more because of the depth of sorrow.

And if we love the heavenly Father, truly, we will need no explanation. For from those whom we love explanations are not demanded. Nor are they needed.

Happy then are they who rightly mourn. They will be comforted.

Tourist Facilities To Be Improved

Amman, Jordan — (NC) — Premier Hazza al-Majall announced that a "first class airport" will be built at Jerusalem to improve tourist facilities.

He also said in a press statement that the government has decided to widen the road from Jerusalem to Bethlehem and the road from Jerusalem to the Dead Sea. Both the airport and the road projects are part of a plan to "promote the tourist resources," the Premier said.

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Jews Honor Catholic Rescuer

New York — (RNS) — A Catholic who helped save the lives of thousands of Jews during the Nazi occupation of Hungary during World War II received a special award here from the Women's Division of the United Hittite Service, world-wide Jewish migration and resettlement agency.

He is Leslie Oskay of Longton, N.Y., who while serving in the Hungarian army gave false information to the Germans to save the lives of Jews in a labor battalion under his command.

THE AGENCY said that in one instance he loaded Jews doomed for extermination onto three trucks and transferred them to a separate "battalion of refuge."

The mission closed on the eve of Holy Week so that all could participate fully in the Holy Week Liturgy. It was estimated that more than 120,000 persons gathered in the various churches for the mission's closing "Hour of Unity," while thousands of others listened to a broadcast of the ceremony.

Harold Wilkin Last Rites Held

Funeral Mass for Harold J. Wilkin, Sr., was offered in Holy Rosary Church on April 23. Mr. Wilkin formerly of 108 Alameda St., a retired letter carrier and ex-Marine sergeant died April 20, 1960.

SOLEMN REQUIEM Mass celebrated by the Rt. Rev. Mgr. Charles F. Shy after a service in Robert J. Pools Funeral Home conducted by the Rt. Rev. Mgr. Richard K. Burns, Assistant Monsignor; Shay in the Mass were Rev. James F. Doyle, deacon; Rev. Leo J. Mann, subdeacon. Also in sanctuary were the Reverend Fathers Joseph D. Donovan, Paul G. Wohlrab and James Marvin.

Mr. Wilkin worked in the Post Office department for 43 years, 25 of which were in carrying mail on Front St. and Reynolds Avenues before his retirement in 1917.

Mr. Wilkin was a member of the American Legion, National Association of Letter Carriers, a past commander of the W. H. Cooper Marine Post 603, the Holy Name Society of Holy Rosary Church and the Neotoma Adoption Society.

Mr. Wilkin served with the Sixth Marines attached to the Second Division in World War I. He saw action at Chateau Thierry, Aisne-Marne offensive (Selleaux) — where he was wounded) St. Mihiel offensive, Meuse-Argonne (Champagne) and served with the Army Occupation. His regiment was decorated with the Croix de Guerre by the French Government.

MR. WILKIN is survived by his wife Ann Gallagher Wilkin; his daughter, Ann Crandall, Narransett, R.I.; Rosemary McGriff, Mary Elizabeth Reese and Barbara Wilkin; four sons, Harold J. Wilkin, Thomas and John; his sister, Mrs. Anthony Samsoniak and his niece, Sister Bernard Mary of the Sisters of St. Joseph.

Officiating at the grave were Rev. Leo Mann and Rev. William Hart. Burial in the family plot in Holy Rosary Church.

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