

BOOK SHELF**Gallico's Cat**By SISTER MARGARET TERESA,
Nazarene College.Thomasina: The Cat Who Thought She Was God, '57.
Doubleday, 288 pp., \$3.55.

Relax with a modern classic—Thomasina, the Macbeth cat. She was not precisely a relaxed cat, except in the earlier, happier part of her history, when she was draped over her little mistress Mary's arm or used as a fur-piece most of the day.

BUT THE TENDER, crazy little story is relaxing. The old heroine Lori, who lives like a hermit and rescues the trapped animals and broken-winged birds of the quite undisturbed forest, apparently never had to be accounted for. Who cares, so long as she does all the things the reader demands. Thomasina from an early grave, falls gradually in love with Mary's lonely Dad, the town's veterinarian, and at the close is almost able to bring little Mary back to life with needed mother-love?

Almost—because it is Thomasina, the proud but affectionate ginger cat, who really accomplishes the miracle. Mary, seeing the poor long-lost, rain-drenched kitty at last, offered to her by the arms of Dr. Christopher Smart, wrote poems about. She doesn't home promptly and instinctively, as smart cats of course do. Her excuse must be asthma brought on by Daddy's orders—but it is a poor excuse.

Her other honest trait is love. She does love Mary. For the harsh kick of that little tongue, comforting and restoring a dying child, we can forgive all.

**Aid Asked
For Chile**

Washington—(NC)—Catholics have been urged to respond to President Eisenhower's appeal for contributions to aid the Chilean relief operations of U.S. voluntary agencies.

The call for Catholic help came from Mr. Edward E. Evanstrom, executive director of Catholic Relief Services-National Catholic Welfare Conference, the overseas relief agency whose Chilean aid program is the largest in the U.S.

What is most perfect in this unburdened, unworried narrative is Mr. Gallico's faithful interpretation of cat-nature.

Thomasina has all those reluctant, detached, dainty, whimsical, royal traits so faithfully celebrated by literary cat-lovers through the years. She is undoubtedly descended from gods, channel their contributions through their parish churches, or send them directly to CRS-NWC; 350 Fifth Ave., New York 1, N.Y.

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Get U.S. Aid**

Talca — The immediate and generous response of American relief agencies to quake-torn Chile is being contrasted with Soviet indifference, a veteran Maryknoll Missioner reports.

Father Hugh F. Byrne, M.M., of Brooklyn, claims that many Communists sympathizers and fellow travelers here are completely disillusioned by the concern of the USSR for victims of the recent, week-long disaster that thundered across Chile.

Everyone I speak to is praising the swift work of the U.S. government and criticizing the Russians who have yet to send even a telegram of sympathy, says Father Byrne.

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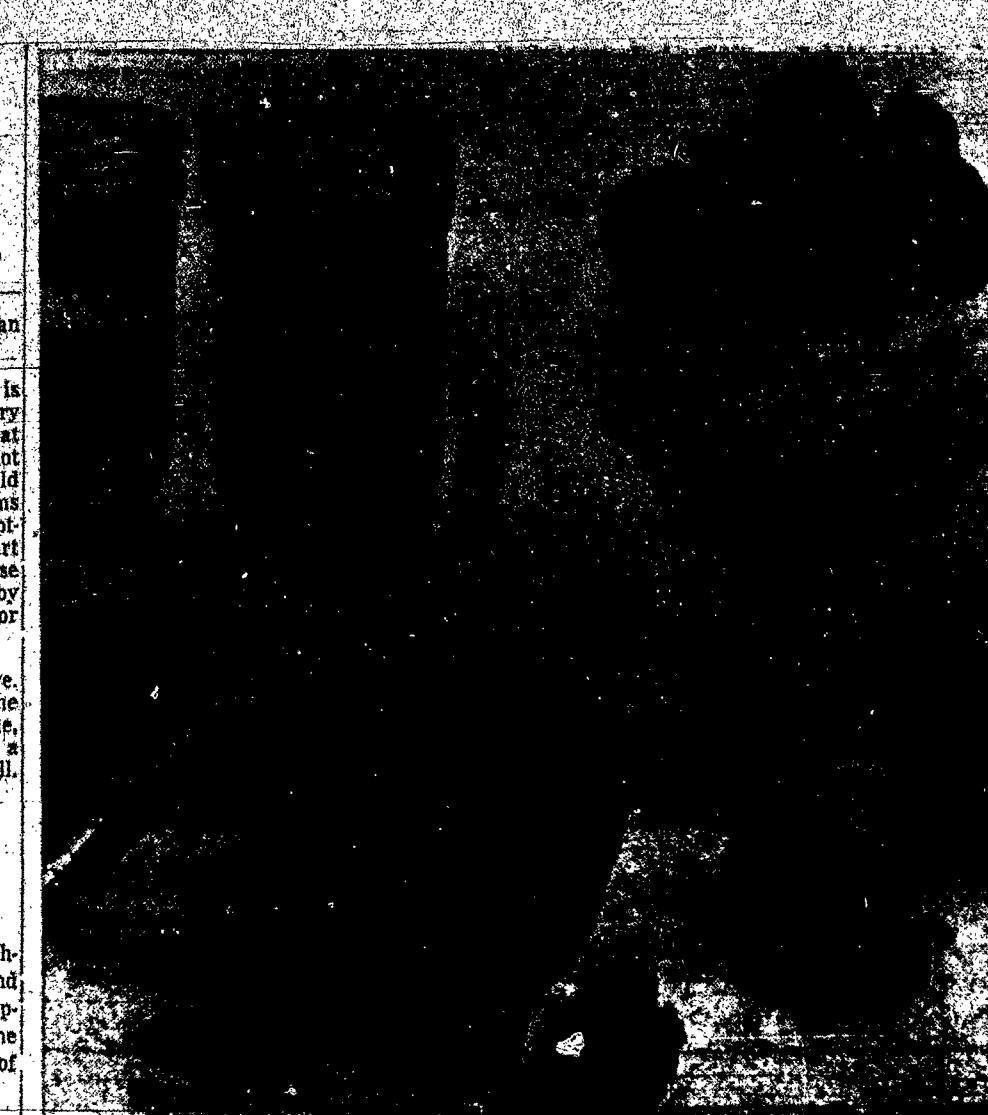
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**Spain 'Abbot Protests Police Beatings**

Madrid (RNS) — Dom. Aurelio Escrivé, Abbot of Monseñor, funds Benedictine monastery in Catalonia, protested after Nazis in the audience against repeated police beatings stood loudly in protest against Dr. Pujo, who was later released. About 20 other Catalan Catholics were reportedly to have been subjected to almost month-long jail by Spanish Nazis. Govt. Governor of Catalonia, General Francisco Franco, "Homeless arrested men were held where strong sentiment exists of the Capela Flot," in honor of his prison until May 23 and then against the Franco regime.

Death of Juan Maragall, a Catalan in custody.

In a personal letter to General Franco, Dom. Aurelio denounced the repression and tortures inflicted on young Catholics during a concert given on May 19.

Although the hymn had been sung by the choir, General Franco would permit the boycott a farewell ceremony. When members of the audience called the incident "a legend began singing the hymnable epilogue to your go themselves, the police inter-

vened and arrested Dr. Jorge

Obviously angered by the repression and treatment of the Catholic cult since 1939, it had youths against whom no formal charge was made. Dom. Aurelio

by the Oficio Catalán, a well-known choral group, in the Palace of Music in Barcelona.

When members of the audience left Barcelona on May 23,

A few days previously, Dom. Aurelio had served as official host to the Chief of State when he visited Monseñor's Abbey, which ranks as Catalonia's greatest religious shrine.

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