'Bishop With 150 Wives'

Sydney — (RNS) — A Roman Catholic prelate, once dubbed "the bishop with 150 wives" because of his protective habit of buying aboriginal girls who had been promised in marriage to men old enough to be their grandfathers, died here at the age of 87.

He was French-born Bishop Francis Xavier Gsell, first head of the Diocese of Darwin. After his retirement in 1946, he was decorated by both the British and French governments for his lifelong championship of the Australian aborigines.

HE WAS just Father Gsell of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart when he founded the mission station at Bathurst Island near Darwin in 1911. Unarmed among a hostile people, he had many arrows and spears directed at him until he finally won their confidence by his kindness, patience, charity and courage.

Twenty-seven of his 52 years of service in the Church were spent with the natives of the island, where he acquired his "harem."

To keep the aboriginal girls from falling into the hands of tribal elders who already possessed other wives, Father Gsell traded for them himself with flour, sugar, tomahawks, tobacco and calico and thus made them his legal "wives" in the eyes of the tribe.

He saw to it that the girls were clothed, fed and educated, and eventually they were married to young men who had also been brought up at the mission and converted to Christianity.

Born at Benfeld, in the Diocese of Strasbourg, France, on Oct. 30, 1872, Bishop Gsell was ordained in 1896, and came to Australia in 1906 after having previously worked in Papua and the Gilbert Islands. In 1938 he was made Bishop of Darwin. He retired in 1948 at the age of 76.

In his memoirs published in 1956, Bishop Gsell recalled an ad limina visit in 1947 to Pope Pius XII to whom he related the story of his many "wives." "Yes, I quite understand," he quoted the Pope as saying. "You buy these women in order to give them their freedom. Your diocese and your work both have by Apostolic Blessing."

Bishop Gsell once told of receiving a wire from the Australian government demanding an explanation of his "purchase of women." He also related how Communists had exploited the story locally and in Europe, charging him with infringing "the rights of native people" by the "abominable crime of buying native girls."

GOD LOVE YOU!

By MOST REV. FULTON J. SHEEN

* * *

A charitable foundation wrote to us recently inquiring to what particular needs it should assign $50,000 it planned on giving to a certain Mission country. Not trusting our own judgment, we wrote to the Holy Father's Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith in Rome, asking them to state where such charity was most needed and would be most effective. They mentioned two particular areas, one because its church and schools had been destroyed by a flood, the other because there had been such an increase of converts that new churches and schools were imperative.

How wise were the decisions of the Sacred Congregation! In contrast, how little we know of the truly great needs of the Missions.

This brings up the question of why the Holy Father should have said that he must be "first and principally aided," through his Society for the Propagation of the Faith. It is because (1) the Holy Father knows the urgencies of each territory and country in the world; (2) he equalizes the distribution of the alms of the faithful; and (3) we make not only a sacrifice of money when we send it to him but a sacrifice of our egotism as well: we concede that he knows the Missions' needs better than any of us.

Not a cent which you give to the Holy Father's Missions through the Society for the Propagation of the Faith in your diocese may be distributed by its Diocesan Director, nor by the Bishop, nor by the National Director in New York. Everything goes to the Vicar of Christ. What a beautiful way to make an act of charity, either in your daily sacrifices or in your will! You cannot answer every appeal that comes to you, nor can you judge their relative merits. But you can put all your responses in one basket by giving to the Holy Father through the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, for he has care of all.

GOD LOVE YOU to E.S. for $1 . . . to C.M. for $20 "I pledge a dollar a week for the Propagation of the Faith. Here are some of my savings." . . . to M.J.O'B. for $10 "I'm sending this ten dollars for our Missions. This is a real sacrifice for me as I have a lot of bills to pay." . . . to M. for $20 . . . to C.C.S. "Please accept this offering for the Missions in gratitude for the gift of faith, a good marriage, four healthy children, material abundance, and countless other gifts not earned or merited." . . . to Mr. and Mrs. G.S. for $2000 "Please accept this check for the Propagation of the Faith, part of our winnings from the Irish Hospital Sweepstakes."

Your prayers go a long way when you use the WORLD-MISSION ROSARY. They cover the whole world in the course of a few minutes. And the sacrifice offering that you send to us for the rosary goes a long way too — for it is used in the far-away Missions. The rosary is yours at your request accompanied by your $2 sacrifice.

Cut out this column, pin your sacrifice to it and mail it 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.

TWO HUNDRED FIFTY

people have embraced the faith in SOUTH INDIA since a new Mission Station was opened within the past two years at KOTHPARA. This village is, as the saying goes, "miles from nowhere." About two years ago new settlers began arriving in this remote area for the purpose of establishing farms. Their number has been growing each month. Previous to their coming, the handful of Catholics who had been living in KOTHPARA, travelled a great distance every week to attend Sunday Mass in another village. It was because of the number of Catholics among the new arrivals that the Bishop decided to establish the Mission Station at KOTHPARA; now, because more and more Catholics are still arriving, and because of the unprecedented number of conversions, a Church is necessary to help keep the faith alive. The cost will be $3,000

Near East Missions

The Holy Father's Mission Aid for the Oriental Church

HAVE YOU EVER HAD GREGORIAN MASSES CELEBRATED FOR A DECEASED RELATIVE OR FRIEND? WRITE TO US FOR INFORMATION.

THE SICK AND THE AGED—how wonderful for them to have the ministrations of devoted Sisters. This care can be given by our Sisters in Mission countries only because Catholics are so generous. Our LEPER FUND CLUB aids in the support of Leper Hospitals; our PALACE OF GOLD CLUB helps to maintain Homes for the Aged. The dues for each Club are $1.00 a month. We need more members for both Clubs. Can you join?

A SPECIAL JOY must be Saint Anne's in heaven, as, through the centuries, she witnesses countless Catholic girls wanting to be like her daughter, Mary; as she sees so many girls imitating the humility, the purity, and the obedience of her daughter, as professed nuns. SISTER HYACINTE and SISTER ADRIENNE are two girls who grew up in MARY'S LAND and now want to serve her and her Son as ROSARY SISTERS in that Blessed Land. They are in the novitiate in Jerusalem.

LONG AND ARDUOUS are the years of training required of a boy before his ordination to the Holy Priesthood. EDMOND FAKHRY and ANTOINE FADALLAH have just begun the training that will lead them to the reception of Holy Orders. On the glorious day of their ordination all the difficulties they faced and overcame in attaining their goal will fade into insignificance. With zeal born of love of Jesus and Mary, they, like Sister Hyacinte and Sister Adrienne, will spend their lives ministering to the people of MARY'S LAND.

If you would care to finance the education of a priest or a nun in the Middle East, we will be pleased to write to you concerning the cost and method of payment.

A GIFT FOR A BIRTHDAY OR AN ANNIVERSARY?

Why not one of the following — Holy Mass celebrated by a Missionary priest, Membership in the CATHOLIC NEAR EAST WELFARE ASSOCIATION, a Sacred Article for a Mission Church in honor of a loved one or a friend? If you wish to make one of these your gift, we will send the recipient a beautiful Gift Card, telling him about it.

Near East Missions
FRANCIS CARDINAL SPELLMAN, President
Msgr. Peter P. Tosky, Nat'l Sec'y
Send all communications to
CATHOLIC NEAR EAST WELFARE ASSOCIATION
480 Lexington Ave. at 46th St. New York 17, N.Y.

Fish Hooks Support Nuns

Canton, Ohio — (RNS) — Sister M. Juliana examines a plastic worm while assembling fishing lures at St. Clare's Monastery here. Known as St. Peter's Fishing Lures, the artificial bait is made by the nuns to help support the convent. More than 2,000 lures have been sold since the project was started in April. The nuns, who are cloistered Franciscans, never leave the monastery for any reason — let alone fishing.

BOOK SHELF

Young Saints

By SISTER MARGARET TERESA
Nazareth College

Golden Legend of Young Saints, by Daniel-Rops. Illustrated by Mary Reed Newland. Kenedy '60. 113 pp. $2.95.

Daniel-Rops, besides being a noted scholar, is a most successful writer for children in his own land of douce France. "Golden Legend of Young Saints" ranks with top pre-teen books, and is beautifully translated and sensitively illustrated by Mary Reed Newland. It "reads aloud" well, teaching idiomatic English in the only possible way.

What is remarkable about Daniel-Rops' story-telling, besides its beauty of language, is that the youngster hearing or reading it will absorb a broadly reasoned Christian history without feeling any pressure of "lessons," and a particularly sound, sure historical perspective at that, from one who knows—a history that starts with Our Lord's lifetime and comes right down to the twentieth century, turning, in the very last story, back once more to Our Lord Himself.

So it is that the true lovers of Christ must write: "By urging His followers to become as little children, Our Lord did not mean that children were perfect, but that we were to try to return to that spirit of innocence, of hope, of trust in God we had in those happy days. . . ."

The Middle Ages still come in for so much of condescending and scandal-loving and godless interpretation later on in a child's life, that one digesting this first chapter, "The Golden Legend" or medieval saints' book, will thereafter take the barrage of misunderstandings rightly fortified. He learns here why the legendary element was allowed in and why it was so treasured, what good it was, how close Heaven and God were to men's thoughts in earlier days, how fascinating it was to be alive even if material comforts were few and perils many.

Adults can learn from Daniel-Rops, too, and deliberately simple treatment, when as fine as this, is a blessing to come upon.

There are fifteen perfectly constructed stories—of a child who knew Jesus, of the boy who fled from the Garden of Gethsemane as the Passion opened (Mark); of Paul, Agnes, Blandina the valiant little slave-girl, of captives in Ethiopia who became its missionaries, of Genevieve of France, of St. Brendan's voyage (Oh, the clever management of that!), of Odilia, Louis IX, Joan of Arc, Aloysius, Bernadette, the young martyrs of Uganda, and Dominic Savio.

Exciting stories though they are, they do not hurry, they give time for questions and thinking and explanations, and material for those delights, and answers.

East Rites Said Bridge To Rome

Jerusalem — (RNS) — Melkite Rite Archbishop Peter Medawar declared here that the Byzantine Rites of the Catholic Church were "the fittest to work for the realization of Pope John XXIII's call for Christian unity, because they offer a natural link not only between Western and Eastern Christianity but between Christianity and Islam."

THE PRELATE, who is Auxiliary to Melkite Rite Patriarch Maximos IV Saigh of Antioch, Alexandria and Jerusalem, added that the most suitable rite for this mission would be the Melkite Rite, which embraces some 250,000 Arabic-speaking Catholics in the Middle East.

Archbishop Medawar was in Jerusalem's Old City for the first general synod of the Melkite Rite to take place in 110 years. He said one of the main topics at the synod would be ways and means of promoting unity among the Churches. This is expected to be one of the chief concerns of the Ecumenical Council summoned by Pope John that is expected to open within the next two years.

A score of Melkite Rite archbishops and bishops, and many other prelates and superiors from Melkite Rite communities in Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Jordan and Israel, gathered for the opening of the synod, with Patriarch Maximos presiding.

200 Die In Asylum Fire

Guatamala City—(NC)—The most disastrous fire in the history of Guatamala has destroyed this city's mental hospital, killing more than 200 inmates.

The fire broke out during the night and trapped its victims despite the attempts of doctors, nurses and Sisters of Charity, who staff the hospital, to bring them to safety. There were 1,600 patients in the hospital.

Catholics Told

Shun Birth Control Laws

Santa Barbara — (RNS) — An English Roman Catholic legal scholar, in a report on birth control and public policy, has urged Catholics in the United States and England not to support legislation totally banning the use or sale of contraceptives.

Dr. Norman St. John-Stevas, a journalist as well as lawyer, suggested that "while Roman Catholics in a democracy have every right to work for legislation outlawing the sale and distribution of contraceptives," they might better "limit their efforts to securing a policy of state neutrality on the issue and passing of measures of preserving public morality which command the general support of the community."

THE REPORT, published by the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions here, is one of a series concerned with the study of religion in a free society. The Center was established by the Fund for the Republic.

In his report, Dr. St. John-Stevas declared that a statute such as that in Connecticut which forbids the use of contraceptives "violates Catholic principles of jurisprudence, and is unenforceable."

He explained: "A breach of natural law must be a fit subject for legislation and injure the common good substantially before it is forbidden by law. The law must be capable of enforcement and equitable in its incidence. Finally, if it would cause greater evils than those it is intended to avoid, recourse to legislation must be eschewed."

"The banning of the use of contraceptives by law, as in Connecticut, fulfills none of these criteria," he continued.

"Using a contraceptive is essentially a private act, and though it may have harmful social consequences it is impossible to isolate any particular act and the consequences that flow from it. In practice such a law is obviously unenforceable, and the attempt to enforce it would involve an intolerable interference with the private life of individuals."

THE AUTHOR, however, defended the right of Catholics to work for the passage of prohibitory birth control laws by "normal political means," such as public campaigns, distribution of literature and lobbying of legislators.

Noting that in the past laws restricting gambling, betting and drinking had been added to the statute book, "but not by Catholics," the author declared: "The right then exists, but whether Catholics would be wise to follow Protestant precedent and exercise it is open to considerable doubt."

He said that Catholics, in campaigning for the maintenance of laws forbiding the sale of contraceptives "gain little for public morality. They do, however, increase the fear of Catholicism in the minds of Non-Catholics and increase the likelihood that when Protestants visualize the Church, the image will not be that of a religious body but of a political power structure."

"This is a high price to pay for the maintenance of ineffectual statutes," he added.

CAN CATHOLICS EVER ACCEPT BIRTH CONTROL?

Will the pressures of an exploding population cause the Catholic Church to modify its position on birth control? Now in Coronet Magazine an eminent Catholic journalist, William Clancy, explains the too-little-known facts behind one of the world's most controversial issues. Read, "What Do Catholics *Really* Think About Birth Control?" in Aug. CORONET now on sale

Islam Chief Lauds Nuns

Malacca — (RNS) — Governor Haji Abdul Malek bin Yusof of Malacca State, who also is one of Malaya's top Islamic leaders, paid a glowing tribute here to the Roman Catholic nuns of the Convent of the Holy Infant Jesus for their work in sheltering and rearing unwanted babies.

Speaking at the opening of a new $20,000 nursery at the convent, he declared: "It is said that heaven lies at the feet of mothers. But for these unfortunate babies, I say heaven lies at the feet of the sisters who unflaggingly care for them, bring them up and educate them."

Cronin Comments
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It is often possible to save money by giving it away. While not all of us are so fortunate as to have money to give away, there is a surprising number of people for whom an understanding of Federal gift and estate tax laws could mean substantial savings.

These laws tax the transfer of property either during life or after death. Their provisions often make it possible to transfer property during life and thus avoid the payment of an estate tax on such property at death. There can be an important tax advantage in doing so. WE shall be pleased to furnish without obligation an interesting and informative bulletin on the above that is yours for the asking.

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Migrants Plight Blot On U.S. Conscience

Washington — (NC) — A Senate document calls the plight of the U.S. migrant farm worker and his family a charge to the conscience of all Americans.

"They are living testimonials to the poverty and neglect that is possible even in our wealthy and dynamic democracy that prides itself on protection and concern for the individual," the document said.

Prepared for the migratory labor subcommittee of the Committee on Labor and Public Welfare, the report was authored by Daniel H. Pollit, associate professor of law, University of North Carolina, and Miss Selma M. Levine, a Washington lawyer.

THE REPORT is a collection of statistics and quotations from groups working to better the standing of migrant workers. It is critical of working, housing, wage and recruitment conditions.

There are nearly 1,000,000 traveling farm workers, half of whom are Americans and the other half foreigners, chiefly from Mexico. The Americans are largely southern Negroes, Puerto Ricans and Indians, it says.

"The migrant and his family are lonely wanderers on the face of our land," the document says.

FRIDAY JULY 29 IS FATHER BAKER DAY

Won't you come and honor FATHER BAKER on the 24th anniversary of his death?

- Mass in his Basilica of Our Lady of Victory at 10 a.m. (sermon by Msgr. Shaw, assistant 1919-1926).
- Procession to Father Baker's grave.
- Tours of Basilica and O.L.V. Infant Home all afternoon, free guide service.

Leave Thruway at Exit 55W, then 1½ miles east on Ridge Road.

Please note: visitors always welcome; free guides daily during florist season. For large groups, or for hotel/motel information, please write.

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  - *St. Monica's* • *St. Andrew's*
  - *Blessed Sacrament*
- *New members received at 9:45 P.M.*

For further information WRITE or PHONE: Urban G. Kress, executive secretary Rochester Nocturnal Adoration Society, 35 Skylane Dr., Roch. 21, N.Y. — HO. 7-5230.

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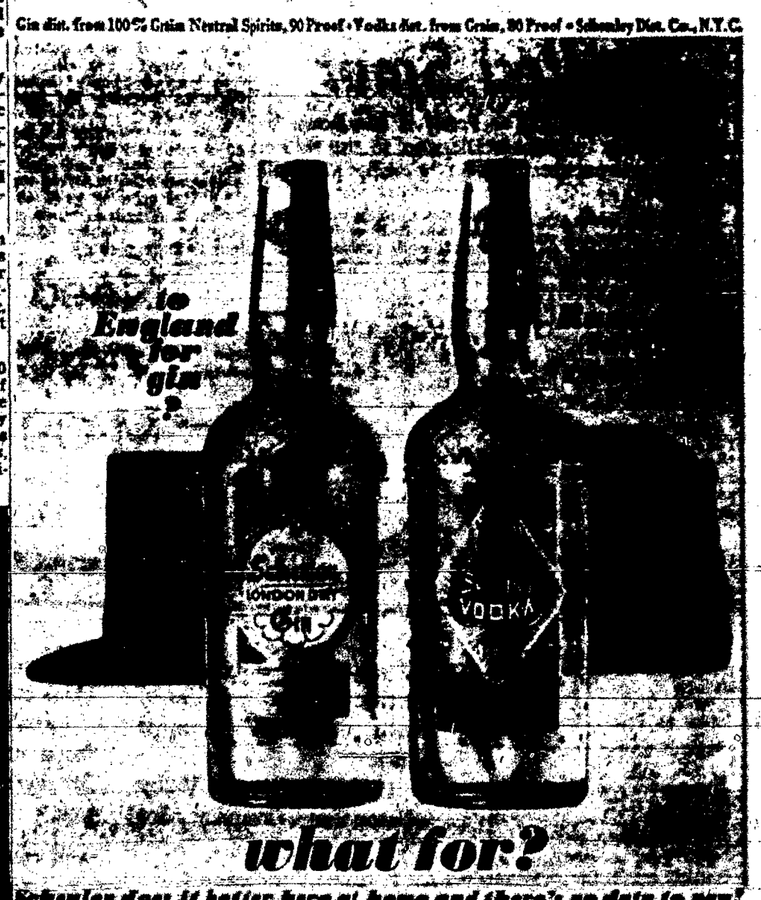

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Why look abroad for the finest gin and vodka? We do it better in America. Take Schenley London Dry Gin. Here's a gin made from only the costly center cut of the spirits. As a result, it's the smoothest gin anywhere. For Schenley Vodka we use authentic old world charcoal formulas. And the extra Schenley touches make it the lightest, dryest vodka on earth. So, why buy imports and pay extra for freight and duty? You'll find Schenley London Dry Gin and Schenley Vodka (both cost the same) at popular prices everywhere. $4.05 4/5 Qt. $2.59 Pint