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# Atom Blast, Stolen Nails Lead To Priest Vocation

A Japanese kamikaze pilot is now a Catholic priest.

The "Day of Infamy" of nineteen years ago was the first step in a round-about route to a new faith and a priestly vocation.

His old faith was obliterated in the atomic blast which shattered Hiroshima four years later.

Father John Sirieda, as he is now known, said he owed his life to an American fighter plane that disabled his own aircraft before he could go into action the day the bomb fell on Hiroshima.

**"And that day was also the end of the Japan I had known and loved," he added. "The Emperor, the myths, the desperate courage of the kamikaze fighters collapsed like so many cards. Only death remained."**

The 33-year-old priest is a native of Kagosima, near Nagasaki. His father was a colonel in Japan's famed Manchurian Army, and his mother, a Buddhist priestess, reared the boy in the cult of heroism, Samurai traditions, and sacrifice for the Emperor.

At 16, after receiving an ensign's rank at Tokyo Naval Academy, he became second pilot and wireless operator in a kamikaze (suicide) squadron operating out of Miakonojo.

**After the atomic bombings, in which his parent's home was destroyed, the young naval officer went to the countryside to find shelter. Needing nails to construct a temporary hut, he entered a Catholic church in the hope of stealing some.**

The priest, an Italian named Father Adimo Roncato, caught the young ex-pilot in the act.

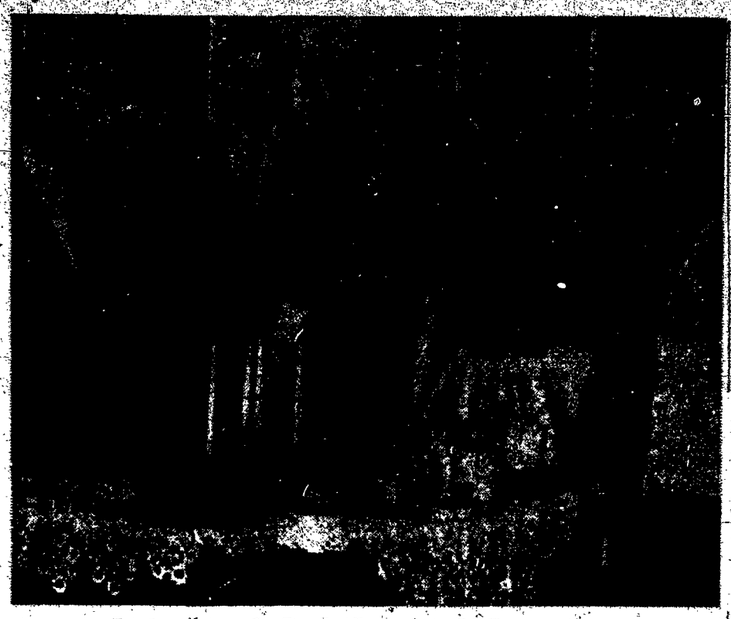
"I was scared stiff," Father Sirieda recalled, "for many terrible things were told in Japan about missionaries at that time."

Father Roncato gave the frightened culprit the nails and offered him any other material that he might need. But even more important, he gave the young man courage and inspiration.

A few years later, when Father Roncato died, the young man decided to become a priest in the same order as the man "who had been a friend to me."

Father Sirieda was just recently ordained to the priesthood in the Salesian order at Turin, Italy.

## Interracial Advent Wreath



**Cleveland—(RNS)—The first of a series of Sunday-afternoon interracial "visiting workshops" closes with the lighting of an Advent wreath candle in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Baker (right), Negro hosts who welcomed white visitors. Sponsored by Caritas, a Catholic organization in Cleveland seeking to promote interracial understanding, social visits are to be made to additional Negro homes in the area. Others shown are, left to right: Joseph Newman, Negro founder of Caritas; Mrs. Alice Paulus and Mr. and Mrs. George Call.**

**Jimmy Durante**

## 'Sick' Jokes Hurt People

Portland — (NC) — A popular comedian took a sober view of a current type of humor known as "sick."

Jimmy Durante reflected on his 46 years in show business and told the N.C.W.C. News Service what he thinks of "sick" comedians.

"That's not our style of humor, but it would seem people like it," he said. He shrugged in a familiar Durante gesture and added: "But people hear some of that stuff and resent it later — like off-color jokes. People laugh at them but when they get outside, they say: 'gee, wasn't that a dirty show!'"

Durante, in Portland to star at the Auto Show, explained how his comedy differs from the "sick" brand.

**"They hurt people. We don't make any jokes to hurt people — or we don't act like paralytics or that kind of stuff. Any joke I tell is on myself," he said.**

"We don't use any off-color jokes either — even in cafes, even in Vegas," he added. "We just came from Las Vegas and we had a clean show there and people liked it. Afterward, people said: 'Thank God, you can bring your children to it.'"

After entertaining three generations of Americans, Durante finds youthful audiences "as much fun as ever."

"YOU KNOW, I entertained in the 20s right after World War I," he said. "Then I entertained those people's children and now I'm entertaining their children. The youngsters in the audience are just as much fun — even more so now."

Of television, Durante said he thought there was too much violence in some of the shows.

"There's too much murderin' on TV," he said.

## Prayer Day For Persecuted

The nation's bishops have designated next Sunday, Dec. 18, as a day of prayer and penance for the persecuted people of the world.

Catholics are asked to offer their Mass, Holy Communion, prayers and mortifications on that day.

The bishops cited the continued oppression of faith by Communist regimes and growing tension in Cuba, Ceylon and in some of the newly independent nations of Africa.

## Choose Your Own Fast Day

Catholics may choose either Dec. 23 or Dec. 24 as the day they will fast and abstain for the vigil of Christmas.

Pope John granted this unique permission in a special 1959 Vatican decree.

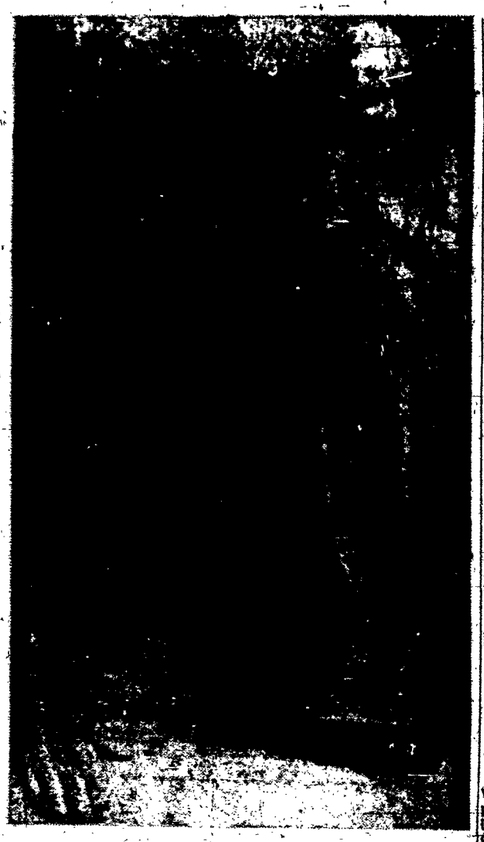
The vigil Mass, however, may be said only on Dec. 24.

## Navy Aids Nun-Surgeon

Taipei—(RNS)—Some $10,000 worth of medical supplies were presented by seamen of the United States Seventh Fleet to Sister Hilda Meier of St. Joseph's Hospital in Kaohsiung, popularly known as "The Healing Sister of Taiwan."

The nun-surgeon, trained in the United States, has delivered an average of 300 babies and performed 200 major operations a year during her ten years on the island. While gynecology and obstetrics are her special fields, circumstances have made her a competent all-around surgeon.

A member of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters, the nun obtained her B.Sc. degree at St. Bonaventure (N.Y.) College, and her medical degree at George Washington University, Washington, D.C. She went to China in 1941 and helped open St. Joseph's Hospital in June, 1949.



## Saint as Boy of Today

**Waukesha, Wis. — (RNS) — This hand-carved wooden statue depicts St. Dominic Savio, a 15-year-old Italian boy who lived more than 100 years ago, as he would look dressed as a youth of today. The image was donated to the chapel of Catholic Memorial High School in Waukesha, Wis., in memory of another youth. He was Donald Fleischman, who drowned in 1955 when he was 19. His father Leo, donor of the statue with his wife, is shown with the saint.**

Send all changes of address to 35 Scio St., Rochester 4, N.Y.

## Haiti Action 'Pains' Pope

Vatican City—(RNS)—Pope John XXIII sent a message to Archbishop Francois Poirier of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, voicing his concern and sorrow over the expulsion of the prelate from his See by the Haitian government.

Conveyed by Domenico Cardinal Tardini, Vatican Secretary of State, the message said the Pontiff was "pained by the violation of the Church's necessary rights and by the unjust and inconsiderate treatment" of the archbishop.

Radios and Television. Easy Terms. William S. Thorne Jeweler, 313 Main St. East. —Adv.

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Why Change A Good Law?
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Local News
See Second Section

# Charge Made, Denied Films on Moral Skid

## We're Here. Where's The New School?

**Pupils of Christ the King school, Irondequoit, took a hike to the nearby site of the Bishop Kearney High School soon to be built on Kings Highway. Another new school, the Cardinal Mooney High School, will be built on Maiden Lane in Greece. The two schools will cost $2,600,000 each and provide for a combined total of 3,200 pupils. A fund drive completed last week totaled $5,800,000 in pledges for the construction scheduled to start in the spring. (Courier Journal photo by Paul Contestable)**

Hollywood's movie producers and the nation's Catholic bishops locked horns this week in a sharp clash over the moral tone of current motion pictures.

Against this backdrop of conflict, Catholics across the country will renew their pledge to the Legion of Decency this Sunday — a pledge committing them to "stay away" from pictures that are "indecent and immoral."

In the 150 parish churches of the twelve county Rochester Diocese, priests in their sermons will explain the Decency Legion's program.

The Legion was organized in 1934 by the U.S. hierarchy to alert the public to moral dangers in many movies then being produced. In the quarter century since then, American made films have had a seesaw record according to ratings given by the Legion of Decency.

**THE LEGION'S** committee of five bishops in their annual statement issued last week charged Hollywood had made "bold departures" from decency in its 1960 productions. The five bishops — who represent the nation's whole hierarchy — called America's 40 million Catholics to make "an unmistakable national protest" to the film capital.

They based their charge on a 10 per cent jump in films rated as "objectionable" by the Legion reviewers. According to its 1960 report, the Legion said 24 per cent of U.S. films were in this category compared to 14 per cent in the previous year.

**FILM PRODUCERS** promptly retorted, "We do not agree."

They said, "The facts do not support any such conclusions."

They made their reply in a statement issued by the Motion Picture Association of America, the organization of major U.S. movie producers.

In the Motion Picture Association's reply to the Bishops, the organization said film production has been in "a process of evolution."

This process, it said, is forward what the Bishops had called "adult oriented production."

"That evolution has brought a broadening in the subject matter of films, a change which was dictated by the American

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## Plea Repeated For Christmas

Nearly 500 Rochester area families look to the Catholic Charities to have a merry Christmas.

A meager meal, no toys for the children, and the same threadbare clothes are the bleak outlook unless the Charities organization plays its annual role of Santa Claus.

Charities officials this week repeated their plea for contributions for this project. Send your donation to the Catholic Charities Christmas Fund, 50 Chestnut St., Rochester 4.

**New Orleans**

## Respect Courts, Clergy Ad Asks

New Orleans — (NC) — Priests who work among Negroes appealed here in a newspaper advertisement for Catholics to respect courts and take leadership away from hatemongers.

The ad was placed in the Times-Picayune by the Josephite Fathers, who conduct 22 churches in the New Orleans archdiocese. It bore the signature of Father George O'Dea, S.S.J., Superior General of the Josephites.

**RACIAL** desegregation of two New Orleans public schools, at the order of a Federal Court, has led to an almost total boycott of the schools by white students, jeering by unruly white mothers of parents whose children still attended the schools and a series of actions by state legislators designed to prevent integration.

The Josephites' advertisement, entitled "An Appeal to Catholics," said that "New Orleans is considered a Catholic City."

"In the pages of national and international publications we have become a city of violence, hatred and disobedience," the advertisement said.

Negroes, it said, have patiently born discrimination against them, awaiting the day when their human dignity would be recognized.

"Now that their day of hope is dawning, they look to their white Catholic brothers to be equally dedicated to their responsibilities towards peace: to snatch the leadership from hate-mongers, to stand firm for tolerance, to respect our country's courts," the ad said.

Monuments and Markers for Holy Sepulchre. The better way to choose a monument is to see our indoor display. You will appreciate our no-agent plan. TROTT BROS., 1120 Mt. Hope. GR. 3-3171.—Adv.

FOR THE CEMETERY ... Evergreen Blankets, Wreaths and Sprays and all Holiday Decorations now ready at BLANCHARD FLORIST —88 Lake Ave. Free parking — BAker 5-0494.—Adv.

## Your Autograph, Please

**Washington—(RNS)—A nun corners President-elect Kennedy for his autograph after he visited his wife and new son in Georgetown University Hospital.**