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GOD LOVE YOU!
 By MOST REV. FULTON J. SHEEN

There is no professional group in the world in which
 there exists a more immediate and deeper bond of fellow-
 ship than among priests. Distance, nationality, color and
 race all dissolve into nothingness in that Divine soluble
 of the Priesthood of Christ. There is nothing to live up to,
 nothing to live down; no preliminary introductions are
 necessary; no time is required for "feeling out" one another.
 It is a foretaste of heaven in which we know as we are
 known.

Perhaps therefore the priests in the United States would
 like to hear some reflections about our brother priests in Africa,
 after first hand contact with them.

1) Whenever they gather socially their unfailing topic of
 conversation is evangelization: where they opened a new mis-
 sion; how many new catechumens they found to instruct; how
 their methods of conversion could be improved; how they in-
 creased daily communions; how many new branches of the
 Legion of Mary were begun in their mission; how prepared
 they must be to live six months isolated in the "bush." To be
 with them is to share an apostolic frenzy; they are all disciples
 of Emmaus — their hearts burning with zeal in a veritable
 African Pentecost.

2) Many of them hear confessions all day Friday and all
 day Saturday — so many are the Faithful who desire to receive
 Communion on Sunday. On Sunday they may baptize as many
 as 150 at one time.

3) They are without any creature comforts, nor do they
 want any. But all through Africa there is only one cry, "Give
 us more priests." One priest in a "reserve" where 50,000 Afri-
 cans are crowded together in infra-human squalor has 200
 under instruction. He said he could convert 40,000 of them if
 he had seven brother priests and eight more chapels even though
 there might be only a tin roof or a floor that was a mixture of
 mud and cow dung.

"What is this to me?" you ask. You can help in several
 ways.

a) You can send Mass-stipends to the National Office
 of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, for we send
 them directly to the Bishop who makes the distribution to the
 clergy.

b) Perhaps your Bishop would let you volunteer for
 Africa for three years apostolate.

c) Maybe you could buy a "compact" car instead of a
 "big job" and send the difference to the Holy Father
 through his Society for the Propagation of the Faith for dis-
 tribution to the most needy areas of Africa.

d) Offer Mass for the Propagation of the Faith that
 vocations and conversions may multiply so that one day
 Africa will convert China.

e) Prove your brotherhood in Christ by any tiny sacri-
 fice for these glorious priests, such as an offering to edu-
 cate the African clergy.

Let us hear from you. In the name of Christ the Lord,
 thank you.
 Most Rev. Fulton J. Sheen
 National Director

GOD LOVE YOU, to M.E.W. for \$250.75 "This is my Christ-
 mas Check" . . . to Rev. E. E. "After giving to the Missions \$20,
 God has blessed my efforts with 20 converts." . . . to T.E.R. for
 \$25 "This is in thanksgiving for our sixth child who was born
 this year and in petition for our first child who began school
 this year."

Cut out this column; plan your sacrifice to it and mail it
 to Most Rev. Fulton J. Sheen, National Director of the Society
 for the Propagation of the Faith, 308 Fifth Avenue, New York
 17, N.Y. or your Diocesan Director, Rev. George S. Wood, 50
 Broadway Street, Rochester 4, New York.

'Queen Mary' To Take Pilgrims To Europe

The Cunard liner "Queen Mary" will take pilgrims across the Atlantic for a six weeks' tour of Europe. Pilgrimage will include visits to Paris, Rome, Switzerland, London and other centuries-famed cities and shrines. Tour starts April 19, ends May 30. Spiritual director is Rev. Henry Atwell, editor of the Courier Journal. Inquiries may be directed to him, 35 Scio St., Rochester, BAKER 5-6210.

Hawaiian Hit Parade

Self-taught Priest Composer
 Honolulu — (RNS) — As the poverty and no musical training. Records distributed by the Theresa Cecilia Music Association, Maui, Hawaii. The firm's newest recording, "Christmas in Hawaii," made the hit parade in the Islands. Under the pseudonym of George Donn, the Rev. Gregory Shea, S.S.C., writes the music and lyrics for Haleakala.

BOOK SHELF

St. Catherine
 By SISTER MARGARET TERESA
 Nazareth College

Lay Siege to Heaven: A Novel of St. Catherine, by Louis de Wohl. Lippincott '61. Catholic Book Club choice.

A Partridge in a Pear Tree: Arranged by Neville Braybrooke. Newman '60. 147 holiday selections, 195 pp.

Louis de Wohl's Saint Catherine is undeniably a living human being, a girl with "only one fetch in her" (God), but endowed with all the qualities that endear a daughter, a sister, a sweetheart. Her nature, she said once, was fire — and it instantly kindled others to apostolic activity, beginning with themselves.

If de Wohl disappoints at all, it is in becoming so possessed by this delightful character that he takes her appearance and effect in certain situations too much for granted as the story goes on — with the result that Catherine sounds peremptory and self-assured, rather than humble and divinely assured.

Perhaps the finest value of the story is the understanding it brings of the Church's bad times: a recognition that the wasting of Rome and the corruption of the Church during the time of antipopes was not of long duration — not in the perspective of two thousand years; and the realization that in those terrible days, despite their long-lasting consequences of a divided Christendom, praise went up to God from the lives and hearts of many saints known and unknown. God's Will was done.

A Partridge in a Pear Tree has displeased some reviewers; some particular Christmas items they cotton to was left out. One might quarrel with a touch of sophistication left in, here and there — could be. But if you're exchanging presents and can substitute this book for an unwanted lampshade or gadget for removing corn from the cob al fresco, don't be foolish; take the book.

It's the prettiest, gayest package of surprises-in-literature to appear in a long while. The

All kinds of "white, tinkling holiday mornings"! Hope you were the lucky recipient of this anthology — stories too — and didn't get just sit-on-the-shelf when you could have had a gray drawing of Lord Byron and a still crazier Christmas letter of his to Tom Moore, and a hundred other nice things all in one book! One of the modern poems goes:

"Christ, sing the voices like uplifted candles,
 is born again in memory's dim manger,
 warmed by the friendly incense of the ox;
 miraculous and immaculate as snow."

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Prayer Year Asked For Americas

Washington — (NC) — U.S. Catholics have been urged to take part in a year-long 1961 Crusade of Prayer for Latin America now under way throughout Canada. By their cooperation U.S. Catholics can make the prayer crusade "an act of spiritual solidarity with Latin Americans," declared Richard Cardinal Cushing, Archbishop of Boston.

Father Shea's "Let Day in Hawaii" was chosen the official May Day song of Hawaii in 1960. Other songs by him include "My Walkiki-Wahine," "Ave Maria Ave.," "Whispering Waves," "My Angel was Singing Hawaiian," "My Little Brown Baby," "White Sands of Makena."

Asked to take a bow at the official May Day program, Father Shea refused. Not because of false humility, he claims, but because he considered it poor taste for a priest to appear there.

For obvious reasons, too, he has declined television and Hollywood offers, shunning the usual methods of song plugging.

"Watch the eyebrows raise when this story comes out," the tall, handsome priest said with a twinkle in his eyes. "I'm from a proper and staid Rhode Island family, you know. They may not like this."

FATHER SHEA, who calls himself a New England Yankee from Ireland, loves to sing (tenor) and for years has put his own words to music for amusement. One day a friend asked, "Why don't we get on the hit parade?"

"Good idea," the priest replied. "Let's."
 And that's how Theresa Cecilia Music Association, a closed corporation of four members, was started to make the recordings.

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TO BEG, THEY ARE NOT ABLE

To dig, however, they are not ashamed—prohibited by Turkish law from begging in Turkey, the **LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR** in ISTANBUL find it extremely difficult to maintain the Home for the Aged which they founded there in 1892. No Catholic Sister is afraid of, or ashamed of, hard work and these Sisters, being no exception, labor long hours in caring for their charges. The rule of life of the **LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR** requires that they beg the money needed to support their institutions of mercy; in every country where they have their Homes they beg the necessary money locally but since they are unable to do this in Turkey they have written to us for help. Their Home in ISTANBUL is in very bad need of repairs and they particularly need a new kitchen for the more economical preparation of food. It will cost \$4,000 to remodel the building which houses them and the old people. We, and they, would appreciate any financial help that you might give.

FROM THE SISTERS OF CHARITY NOVITIATE IN LEBANON many of the newly professed Sisters go out each year to begin their life's work in a school, an orphanage or a hospital, in either Bethlehem or Jerusalem. **SISTER CECILE** and **SISTER YVONNE** are novices at this novitiate in Lebanon — one day in the not too distant future they may be fortunate enough to go to one of these Holy Places on their first Mission assignment. You will share in the merits of their work if you pay for their training. The cost is \$300 and it may be paid in installments.

WE HAVE SEEN HIS STAR in the East and have come to adore Him . . . and opening their treasures they offered Him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. The generosity of the Magi has been imitated many thousands of times since the first Epiphany by devoted people who have seen the Redeemer, not with their physical eyes but with the eyes of their Catholic faith—they have opened their treasures to Christ by their support of His Church and all its activities. At the beginning of this New Year we wish to thank once again all our benefactors—truly they are imitators of the Magi.

THERE ARE IN THE WORLD 60,000 Catholics of the Syrian Rite, most of them in the Middle East; also living in this area are 90,000 dissident Christians of the Syrian Rite, known as Jacobites. Lately the Jacobites have shown a tendency to return to the Church and all Syrian Catholics are praying for re-union. **EDMOND FARAJ** and **ELIAS TABE** are students for the priesthood at the **SYRIAN PATRIARCHAL SEMINARY** in LEBANON—on these boys and on others like them rest the hopes of bringing back the Jacobites. It costs \$600 to educate such a boy for the priesthood. Could you finance the education of one of these boys?

The beginning of a new year gives most of us pause as we look back and wonder where the time went. As year follows year and we get older we take more and more interest in arrangements for our care in old age. In our day of longer life-spans we are pleased to see the number of Congregations of Sisters specially dedicated to the care of the aged. All of these Communities of Nuns need financial help to carry on their work. To aid such Sisters in the Middle East in caring for old people we have established a **PALACE OF GOLD CLUB**. The dues are \$1.00 a month. Will you help?

Near East Missions
 FRANCIS CARROLL SPELLMAN, President
 480 Lexington Ave. at 46th St. New York 17, N.Y.
CATHOLIC NEAR EAST WELFARE ASSOCIATION