

Our Daughter Went To Catholic School But Now She Won't Attend Mass

By FATHER JOHN L. THOMAS, S. J.
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Requiem Said For War Dead

Charleston — (NC)—A Pontifical Requiem Mass for the Civil War dead was offered here in commemoration of the centenary of this nation's epic struggle.

Bishop Paul J. Hallinan of Charleston offered the Mass. Members of the cadet corps of The Citadel military college served as color guard, buglers and guard of honor for the catafalque. During the war exiles from The Citadel played a significant part in the service of the Confederacy.

The memorial Mass was offered in the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, which is adjacent to the site where the ordinance of secession of South Carolina from the Union was signed on Dec. 20, 1860.

School Aid Defended

Kuala Lumpur — (RNS) — Two non-Christian members of Malaya's House of Representatives played an important role in getting that body to continue state aid to denominational schools.

One, a Sikh hauling contractor, formerly attended a Roman Catholic school. His colleague, a Chinese merchant, attended a Methodist academy for boys.

Both spoke during a debate over whether such aid should continue. Some members of the opposition Pan-Malayan Islamic party oppose governmental aid to mission schools now that Islam has been declared the official religion of Malaya.

New Group Fights Reds

Vatican City — (RNS) — Formation of a new pontifical institute which Non-Catholics will be invited to join in a coordinated world-wide struggle against Communism was announced by the Vatican.

The new body will be known as the St. Pius V Institute and will be headed by Alfredo Cardinal Ottaviani, secretary of the Sacred Congregation of the Holy Office. It is expected to begin functioning in the spring of 1961.

Blind Boy's Miracle Cure

Paris — (RNS)—Holy water from Lourdes is reported to have worked a miracle by restoring the full sight of a two-year-old Chinese boy in Singapore. It was learned here.

A Singapore newspaper reported that the boy, Benedict Yip, had lost the use of one eye when he was nine months old. Doctors advised removal of the eye, but Benedict's mother would not consent to the operation.

The mother obtained holy water brought back by friends from a pilgrimage to Lourdes and began applying a few drops of it each day to the boy's eye. After a week, the report said, the boy regained normal sight.

What should parents do when one of their married children stops going to church? We raised our children in Catholic schools and tried to give them a good example. Recently one of our daughters quit attending Mass, and though I've talked to her, I can't learn the reason. Her husband is a poor Catholic, but she knows better. How should we handle this situation?

Although this is no consolation to you, I suppose that certain number of "fall-outs" sometimes factors related to their defection seem clear — poor religious training, bad example, secular companions, invalid marriage, refusal to accept certain norms of the Church, and so on.

In many cases, no apparent cause other than indifference can be discovered, and even when "reasons" are given, it is well to recall that they may be little more than conscience-soothing rationalizations.

There is a mystery in the gift of faith. Some people are raised in apparently good Catholic homes and receive their entire education in Catholic schools, yet the faith never seems to "take" in them.

They regard religion as a set of external practices, something one does more or less faithfully because there appears no good reason for not doing it. If the practice of the faith comes to require real personal sacrifice or if they find themselves among those who have little esteem for religion, they may proceed to "lose" their faith very quickly.

In such cases it is difficult to determine what they have "lost" because we don't know what they ever actually possessed. Obviously all Christians receive the supernatural gift of faith at Baptism, but it is also clear that once they reach the age of reason, they must personally accept Christ as their Savior and acknowledge their total dependence upon Him or they are not likely to persevere in His service. Apparently some cradle-Catholics grow up without ever making this personal commitment to Christ.

They memorize the correct answers at school, go through the customary external rites of worship, perhaps even experience a considerable "lift" from group participation in ceremony and ritual, but they never seem to grasp the reality beneath the externals.

How can they be so superficial? Experience shows that some people show little concern for the real meaning or significance of anything. As long as their immediate needs are reasonably



supplied, they never ask themselves, Where do I come from? What am I? What is my destiny? What is the meaning of pain, sickness, and death?

Because they are shallow in their approach to life, they are shallow in regard to religion. Hence neither love for Christ nor fear of eternal damnation affect them deeply, though they may rationalize their position by maintaining they have lost their faith.

How can you help your daughter? You say every discussion ends in an argument, yet you can't discover the reason for her defection. As I have indicated, people may allege many different reasons for leaving the Church. If one discovers that they are poorly instructed or misinformed, the remedy is simple and discussion becomes fruitful. Your daughter probably knows as many "answers" as you do, so further arguing won't help matters and may make her even more defensive.

What can you do? First, since we must assume that she is sincere and in earnest, and religion is an important element in men's lives you should suggest that she consult her pastor or any priest she feels free to talk to in order to clarify her position. She owes this to herself, for the decision she is making has tremendous consequences.

Second, without arguing, but as the occasion offers, you should raise the essential human questions enumerated above and ask her how she answers them for herself. Whether one likes it or not, these questions must be answered by every thinking person sooner or later.

Modern medical care can keep sickness at a minimum; it can dull pain, but it can only postpone death. Man is a creature, who knows he must die. Disguise this painful fact as he may, he must live with this thought, and if he gives himself half a chance, it is bound to impel him to seek for meaning and significance in life. But only religion can answer the questions he then raises, and only in Christ will he find adequate solutions to all his difficulties.

Direct your daughter's thinking along these lines—she will probably try to avoid it—and she may discover or rediscover what she is giving up.

Finally, you must continue to pray. We can only guess at your daughter's problem, but we know that in the divine plan of salvation, she has been privileged to be united to Christ in Baptism. Surely He who would leave the ninety-nine saved to search for one that was lost will hear your earnest prayers in her behalf.

Chicago Pupils At New High

Chicago — (RNS) — Enrollment in Catholic elementary and high schools in the Chicago archdiocese has reached an all-time high of 332,117, Msgr. William E. McManus, archdiocesan school superintendent reported here.

He said the total represented 272,249 children in the archdiocese's 426 grammar schools and 59,868 students in 87 high schools. The archdiocese comprises Cook County, which includes Chicago, and Lake County.

Dead Sea Scrolls Story Now Clear

By FATHER PATRICK O'CONNOR
Society of St. Columban

Jerusalem — (NC) — "New discoveries could add to, but could not change fundamentally, what we know by now of the significance of the Dead Sea scrolls," Father Roland de Vaux, O.P., director of the Ecole Biblique (Biblical School) in Jerusalem told this correspondent in an interview.

Father de Vaux supervises all the editorial work being done in the Palestine Archeological Museum on the scrolls.

"The work of studying and publishing the fragments of the Dead Sea scrolls is progressing satisfactorily," Father de Vaux said.

The second volume of the series, "Discoveries in the Judean Desert," which contains all the finds in the Murabbaat caves, is already printed and will be published in a few weeks, according to the priest. Volume III, which concerns all the material found in the smaller caves of Qumran, is now proofs.

It will contain, with many other texts, the authorized edition of the famous Copper Scroll, as studied by Father J. T. Milik, delegated by the finders, the American School of Oriental Research, the French Archeological School and the Palestine Archeological Museum.

BASIC WORK on the origi-

nals of the enormous number of important fragments found in Qumran Cave Four is finished. Several years, however, will be needed for complete preparation and publication, which will fill six volumes of the series, Father de Vaux estimates.

He said that the Palestine Archeological Museum has acquired very valuable scrolls from Cave Eleven at Qumran. These are mainly scrolls containing most of the Psalter, parts of Leviticus and Ezekiel, the Aramaic Targum on Job and an Aramaic apocryphal book. The work on this last group of scrolls will begin very soon.

Asked if he expected new discoveries in the Dead Sea area, Father de Vaux replied:

"There are some rumors, which I cannot check, that there are still some scrolls hidden by the Bedouins. Secondly, it is quite possible, that in some caves still to be found in the Qumran region there may be more scrolls to discover."

"But from what has been already deciphered and translated, it appears that the main lines of Essene history and doctrine are now known."

New discoveries could add to, but could not change fundamentally, what we know by now."

Father de Vaux said that New Testament scholars agree generally that in the thoughts and expressions of the Essene compositions there are some parallels with the New Testament, but the scholars stress the fact that such parallels do not imply any dependence of Christianity on Essene doctrine.

"Most of the parallels are explained by the common

roots of the Christians and the Essenes in Old Testament religion and by common thoughts current at the same period in Palestine just before the coming of Christ," Father de Vaux explained.

"Such parallels should never make us forget the essential differences between the religion of this closed community, the Essenes, still expecting the coming of a Messiah, and the early Church preaching to all nations the 'Good News' of the Divine Messiah already come."



Statue Symbolizes Religion

Boston — (RNS) — A bronze sculpture representing religion was erected here as part of a \$350,000 beautification program for historic Boston Common. The statue, depicting a man keeling in prayerful supplication, is part of a grouping on Lafayette Mall which also includes representations of industry and learning. Designed by Boston sculptors Arcangelo Casciari and Adlo di Biccari, the work is described as "traditional with contemporary influence."

Legion Plans Listings To Halt Animal Cruelty

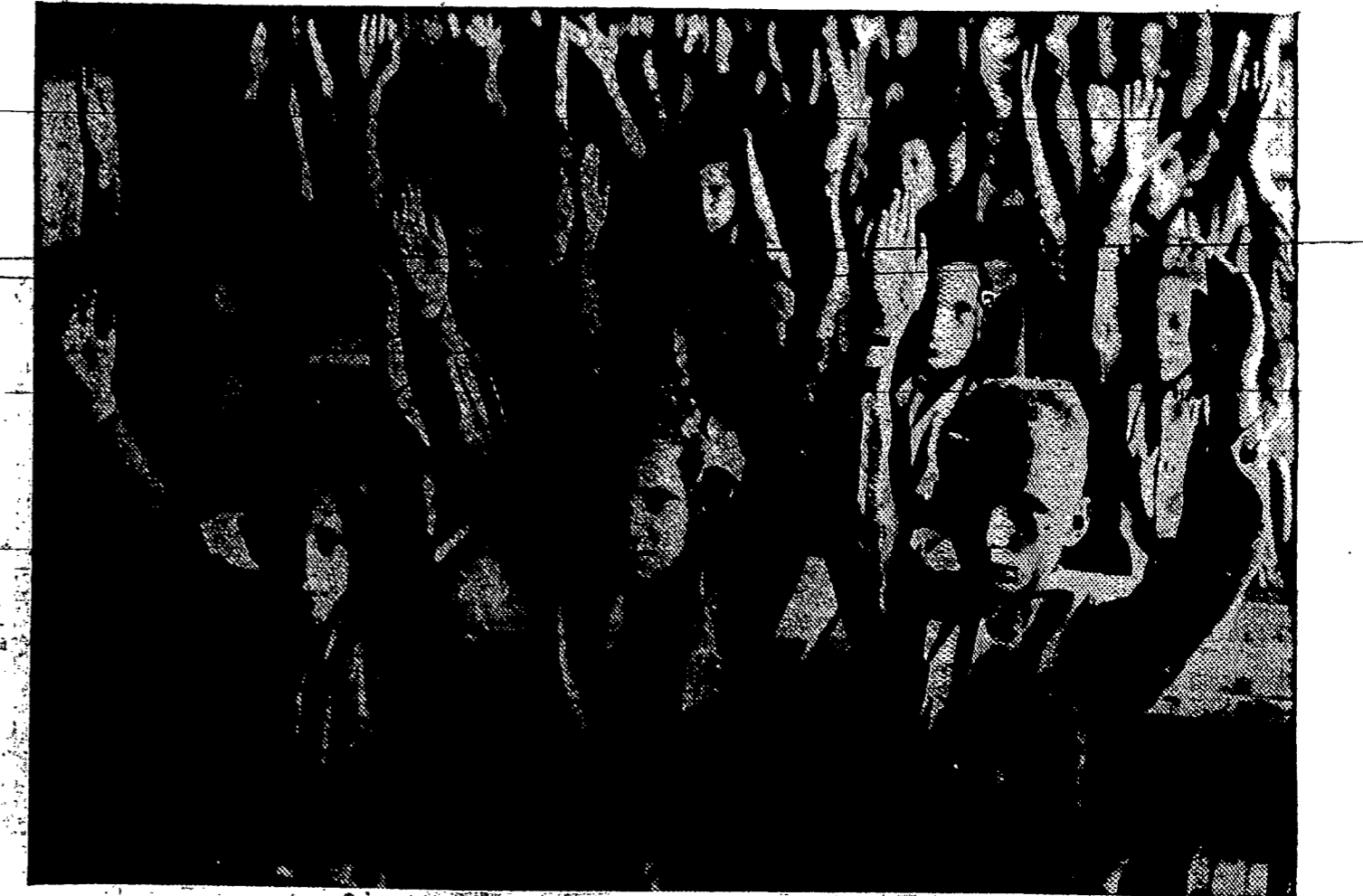
Washington — (NC) — The National Legion of Decency and two humane societies have agreed on cooperative action against brutality to animals in movies.

The World Federation for the Protection of Animals and the Humane Society of the United States, which have headquarters here, will supply the legion with technical facts about cruelty to animals in film production.

THE LEGION will use the information in its rating of films, according to a statement from the U.S. Humane Society. Mel L. Morris of San Rafael, Calif., a spokesman for the World Federation, an organization of about 400 humane societies in 41 nations, charged that the Motion Picture Production Code, by which the industry governs itself, "has become largely ineffective." Filmmakers, he said, have been afflicting "outright cruelty" on animals in violation of the code. Mr. Morris also charged that television is guilty of the same type of cruelty. He said reviewing agencies, in addition to the legion, will be contacted by the humane groups. The legion views movies only.

"Your grandchildren will grow up under Communism!"

by NIKITA KHRUSHCHEV



Will the Soviet threat come true? Will your grandchildren live under Communism? Forget God? Salute the Soviet flag? "Never!" you say. But are you sure? How can you oppose Communism? One sure way is to help Radio Free Europe.

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