

Precious Blood Devotion In Lent

My dear People:

On Ash Wednesday we opened the holy season of Lent. When we accept the blessed ashes on our brows, we make an implicit promise to God that the season will be marked by special prayer and self-denial.

While the Church has generously mitigated the severity of fast and abstinence, She cannot eliminate that important feature of the holy season. Lent is not simply a season of prayer. It is a season of penance, self-denial and sacrifice, a period of atonement for our own sins and for the sins of the world.



We have dedicated this year to the Precious Blood of our Saviour. That Precious Blood was shed for all of us with the limit-less generosity of His Sacred Heart. Shall we, then, measure the generosity of our response and gratitude?

Furthermore, I need not point out the importance, at the moment, of intense prayer during this Lenten season for the welfare of our Country and for the peace of the world.

For this special season, I grant permission for an evening Mass in every church on every evening, except Sunday. I wish also that during the Lenten season, the litany of the Precious Blood be recited in place of the regular prayers after Mass. The litany has been given to us by His Holiness, Pope John XXIII.

May God enrich the souls of all of you with His choicest blessings during the holy season.

With a blessing, I am

Your devoted Shepherd in Christ,

John E. Sheehy

Bishop of Rochester

Strength From Crisis

"Shall the United Nations survive?" Adlai Stevenson asked dramatically as a riot erupted at the international organization's headquarters Wednesday.

We are confident he knows the answer is a most certain yes.

The United Nations has endured other crises and emerged stronger and more mature from each. The Israeli-Arab war, Suez and Lebanon, Hungary and now the Congo have in turn threatened to scuttle the U.N.

Why are the Soviets in so petulant a mood at present?

Probably because their Marxist logic has been shattered. They have trumpeted to the world their claim that colonial people were chained under the yoke of imperialist masters. Yet when during this past year nation after nation in Africa emerged to independence, most of them chose to remain linked to England or France with commonwealth status and none of them ran to the waiting arms of Communism.

Even Patrice Lumumba, certainly a sympathizer with Kremlin goals, refused to cast his new nation's lot in that direction; he appealed instead to the UN.

Katanga province of the Congo has kept aloof from the rest of the country's turmoil, invited the Belgians to stay on as advisers and has recorded a year of prosperity with only four work days lost in the initial chaos of sudden freedom.

New U.S. delegate Mr. Stevenson is reported as having worked out with India a solution for the Congo crisis and thereby gained immediate favor with the new and neutral nations, a distinct blow to Soviet hopes to woo these people.

Frustrated in its hopes and with its logic in shattered pieces, the Soviets now resort to their smear and fear techniques, branding UN secretary general Dag Hammarskjöld as Lumumba's murderer and accusing the UN for the Congo chaos.

Free people who view the UN organization as humanity's best instrument for peace respect Mr. Hammarskjöld as a living martyr, pilloried with Kremlin epithets, and admire his courage to stand firm against their taunts.

Certainly this week's headlines prove the aptness of Bishop Kearney's plea for a devout Lent, "I need not point out the importance, at the moment, of intense prayer during this Lenten season for the welfare of our country and for the peace of the world."

Reapings at Random

Did Navy Scare Rendezvous With Soviets?

By GERARD E. SHERRY
Editor, Central California Register

I don't often go for these confidential political, and business news letters which go out from various organizations. Many of them are most unreliable and a complete waste of time. However, I have found one that has been remarkably accurate in recent years.

This is Inform, a news letter of the International Service of Information Foundation of Baltimore, Maryland.

Inform publishes a dispatch from Warsaw dated the 24th of January, 1961. It is an interesting observation now that the Santa Maria incident appears closed.

Rather than paraphrase it, I will quote verbatim:

"The Santa Maria is to meet a Soviet or satellite ship somewhere in the Caribbean or the Atlantic and Galvao's band will be taken off. Then, having created a 'Battleship Potemkin' legend for the Portuguese communist movement and the anti-Salazar opposition, Galvao and his group will be put ashore, most probably in Angola, Portuguese West Africa, where preparations for an insurrection have been going on for a long time, the insurrection will most probably start in the Cabinda area."

"Since the independence of the Congo, Communist groups for Portuguese Angola have been settled on the border across the river, especially in Boma, which is near the Cabinda frontier, just across the river from Angola, but in the Congo (Inform No. 8017 of 2 August 1960).

"Portuguese forces in Cabinda being nil, it will be simple for such a group of insurgents, with the help of organized groups from the Congo, to disembark in Cabinda and occupy it in a day. Cabinda has a series of sandy beaches used by the forestry enterprises there, and many of the 'foresters' are notorious former German, now Soviet, agents (ISI General Reports, 27 July and 25 September 1951).

"At a prearranged place, the Santa Maria will stop at night, embark the rebel group in lifeboats, possibly take with them some women passengers as a shield, or some crew members as hostages against any action that might be taken from the ship, and disappear into the night. Later on . . .

"A Soviet ship will happen to pass by and meet a group of shipwrecked people in lifeboats. Naturally, she will rescue the unfortunate people. They will then ask for political asylum, which the Soviet government will grant, and the rest will follow. They can

be put ashore wherever it seems best.

"Why choose such a devious way to start Portuguese trouble? Inform's sources say:

"Because it has tremendous propaganda possibilities and will create a world-wide sensation. Otherwise, no one would care about Galvao or what he wanted and all he could do would be to create a small problem of a group of insurrectionists against Salazar agitating in Cabinda or elsewhere.

"This way, Galvao has been given a splendid start to make trouble a la Castro, and an incentive has been provided for many other incidents at sea, to which Soviet ships roaming all the oceans can lead the utmost help.

"Another Inform source advises us that, some years ago, he saw a large packet of pictures taken on the sandy beaches of Cabinda and passed by an anti-Salazar Portuguese diamond smuggler they tied to the Communists, and a former Nazi agent in Cabinda, to another agent in a Western capital. The latter was delighted with the information on where and how to land which these pictures provided.

"At that time, these agents were buying up old landing craft, ostensibly for Cabinda's forestry enterprises, but which would be very

handy for supplying Soviet submarines with oil or disembarking whoever they want in Cabinda.

"The Portuguese agent went to Aarhus in Denmark and disappeared for three weeks. He came back boasting about how easy it was to go to East Germany from Aarhus by fishing boats, but he did not say why he went there or what he was doing behind the Iron Curtain. He took the Cabinda pictures with him and did not bring them back.

"Our source for this information advised his Western intelligence friends about the incident and they came to the conclusion that this was mainly a diamond smuggling affair because, at that time, the Soviet Union was secretly buying some 2 million carats of industrial diamonds in the West annually. And, during the war, the Portuguese agent smuggled industrial diamonds from Angola and Central Africa to the Germans. Being violently anti-American and anti-Salazar, he fell easy prey to Soviet intelligence when the Russians got all the German naval intelligence papers."

You can take it or leave it in relation to the Inform story, but it has a lot of validity, considering the constant efforts of world-wide Communism. Anyhow, it's as plausible an interpretation as I have ever heard.

Fast, Abstinence Regulations For Lent

A dispensation from the Lenten fast laws is given for Wednesday, Feb. 22, Washington's Birthday, and Friday, March 17, St. Patrick's Day.

ABSTINENCE

1. Everyone over seven years of age is bound to observe the law of abstinence.
2. a) COMPLETE ABSTINENCE is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Fridays. b) PARTIAL ABSTINENCE is to be observed on the Ember Wednesday and Ember Saturday of Lent. On days of partial abstinence, meat and soup or gravy made from meat may be taken ONLY AT THE PRINCIPAL MEAL.

FAST

1. Everyone over 21 and under 59 years of age is bound to observe the law of fasting in addition to the law of abstinence.
2. a) Every weekday of Lent, including Holy Saturday until midnight, is a day of fast. b) On days of fast, only one full meal is allowed. Two other meatless meals may be taken to maintain strength, but together they should not equal another full meal. The law of fast permits the use of meat at the PRINCIPAL (FULL) MEAL ONLY. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids, including milk and fruit juices, are allowed.

APPLICATION OF THE LAWS

Age groups 7-21, and over 59, may have their usual three meals a day even during Lent. They may also eat between meals. These groups must observe complete abstinence from meat at all meals and snacks on Ash Wednesday and Fridays. They must observe partial abstinence on Ember Wednesday and Ember Saturday, when they may eat meat at the principal meal. On all other days of Lent they may eat meat at all meals and snacks. Age group 21-59 must combine the laws of fast and abstinence. Thus: On Ash Wednesday and

Fridays, they are not permitted meat at all. They may have only one full meal on these days. Eating between meals is not permitted. Liquids may be taken between meals. On all other weekdays of Lent, including Ember Wednesday and Ember Saturday, they are permitted meat at their principal (full) meal only. The other meals must be meatless. Eating between meals is not permitted. Liquids may be taken between meals. There is no law of fast and abstinence on the Sundays of Lent. When health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not oblige. In doubt concerning fast or abstinence, a parish priest or confessor should be consulted.

Pope's Radio Speaks 29 Languages

By JAMES O'NEILL

Vatican City — (NC) — Vatican Radio is just 30 years old, but it is among the most powerful stations in Europe and not even the communists have succeeded completely in jamming its programs.

The station celebrated its 30th anniversary on February 12. Pope John XXIII received its Jesuit-directed staff of 200 broadcasters and technicians in special audience on the anniversary date.

Thirty years is a short time in the history of the Church. But for Radio Vatican it has been a period of immense growth. Its first equipment was installed by radio's inventor, Guglielmo Marconi. The single and, by today's standards, weak transmitter was put in use by Pope Pius XI on February 12, 1931.

Thirty years ago the station

Daily Mass Calendar

Sunday, Feb. 19—First Sunday in Lent (purple), Creed, Lent Preface.

Monday, Feb. 20—Mass as in missal.

Tuesday, Feb. 21 — Mass as in missal, 1940 — Rev. Michael Groden.

Ember Wednesday, Feb. 22 — St. Peter at Rome (white), Gloria, 2nd prayer of St. Paul, 3rd of Embers Day, Creed, Preface of Apostles, General dispensation, George Washington's birthday.

Thursday, Feb. 23 — Mass as in missal.

Ember Friday, Feb. 24 — St. Matthias, apostle (red), Gloria, 2nd prayer of Ember Day, Creed, Preface of Apostles, 1897 — Rev. Patrick Clune.

Ember Saturday, Feb. 25 — Mass as in missal.

Priests listed above died on the date indicated. Please pray for them.

● PEDESTRIAN: One who walks from the house to the garage.

● BUDGET TIP for housewives: Exercise self-control in the supermarket.

● THE COURTSHIP was progressing too slowly to suit the girl. She decided to seize the next opportunity to hint for a proposal.

The next evening her beau took her to a Chinese restaurant. "How would you like your rice?" he asked. The girl looked at him steadily and said, very distinctly: "Thrown!"

● Neighbor: "How old is your baby brother?" Little Girl: He's not old! He's brand new!"

could barely make itself heard throughout Europe. Today its programs penetrate the heart of Africa and are heard as clearly in Tokyo as in Moscow.

Before World War II, Vatican Radio expanded its programming, installed a more powerful transmitter and built five directional antennae to step up its broadcasting outside of the continent of Europe.

During the war the station became an important part of the Holy See's program to aid military and civilian war victims. It devoted more than 12,000 broadcasting hours to transmit 240,728 messages and appeals for information from war prisoners, dispersed families and refugees.

In 1948 Vatican Radio broadcast in 19 languages. Today it has stepped up its programming to 29 languages, including more than a dozen languages of nations behind the Iron Curtain.

Broadcasts are made each week in Albanian, Amharic (Ethiopian), Arabic, Bulgarian, Chinese, Croatian, Czech, Dutch, English, French, German, Hungarian, Italian, Japanese, Latin, Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish, Portuguese, Rumanian, Russian, Slovak, Slovene, Spanish, Swedish, Danish, Norwegian, Ukrainian and White Russian.

There are daily broadcasts in Czech, English, French, German, Hungarian, Italian, Latin (the Rosary is recited daily in Latin), Lithuanian,

Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Slovak and Spanish.

Broadcasts are transmitted 23 and a half hours a day, seven days a week. More than half of the entire program of Vatican Radio today is aimed at people behind the Iron Curtain.

According to officials at the station, all communist nations except Poland and Yugoslavia systematically try to jam these broadcasts. However, thanks to the most modern and powerful equipment, the major part of these broadcasts are heard.

Vatican Radio's biggest expansion came after World War II. Catholics the world over contributed money to increase the power and effectiveness of the station. Today there are three transmitters and 29 directional antennae in operation.

Another transmitter, the gift of the people of the Cologne archdiocese in Germany, will be installed this year to provide more effective programs for central and southern Africa.

Headquarters of the station is in an ancient but remodeled tower on the top of Vatican Hill. Its studios are spacious and handsomely fitted out. In one studio there is a master control panel designed so that when there is a special ceremony in St. Peter's basilica, broadcasters of nine languages can work simultaneously with others in St. Peter's to bring the function to millions in their own languages.

White-coated technicians with "VR" embroidered on their breast pockets work closely and quietly with the 24 Jesuit priests who direct and broadcast radio programs.

Father Antonio Stefanizzi, S.J., a 43-year-old physicist, heads the operation. A graduate of the University of Naples, Father Stefanizzi did postgraduate work at Fordham University of New York under Nobel-prize-winner Victor Hess.

In the two years that Pope John has been pontiff, Vatican Radio has carried 50 of his radio messages as well as more than 30 general discourses. The present Pope has used the station with great frequency, particularly to reach the new stations of Africa.

In addition to the station on Vatican Hill, Vatican Radio has a large piece of property about 10 miles outside of Rome at Santa Maria where the station's powerful transmitters are located.

Many of the rooms in the Pope's apartments can be turned into temporary studios when the need arises and another set of broadcasting studios have been set up near St. Peter's to accommodate the expanding language broadcasts.

In its brief 30 years Radio Vatican has made its signature — a recording of the bells of St. Peter's and the prayer, Laudetur Jesus Christus (May Jesus Christ be praised) — heard ever more widely throughout the world.



President John F. Kennedy and Sen. Frank Carlson (R-Kans.) bow heads in prayer at annual Presidential Prayer Breakfast.

Freedom Rooted In Strong Faith

Washington — (RNS) — Americans need to recognize not only the principle of religious liberty but the principle of religious conviction, President John F. Kennedy declared here.

The Chief Executive addressed the annual Presidential Prayer Breakfast which marked the 17th Christian Leadership Conference held under sponsorship of International Christian Leadership, Inc., a non-denominational group which sponsors prayer breakfast and luncheon groups among business men and political leaders, both in the United States and abroad.

Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson and six members of the Cabinet were among those seated at the head table.

"I think it is appropriate that we pay tribute to that great principle which is enshrined in the First Amendment to the Constitution, the principle of religious independence, religious liberty, and religious freedom," the President said.

"But I think it is also important that we pay tribute and acknowledge another great principle and that is the principle of religious conviction."

"In this nation, freedom has no significance unless it is accompanied by conviction," he declared.

He said that the Pilgrims and Puritans who settled New England, the Quakers of Pennsylvania, Catholics of Maryland, and Presbyterians of North Carolina all shared both liberty and conviction "which like silver threads run through the warp and woof of American history."

"Today our nation is passing through another time of trial," the President continued. "In many ways, our dangers and our problems are far greater — and certainly infinitely more complex. We will need to draw upon the best that this nation has — often — and draw upon it physically and intellectually and materially."

"But we need also to call upon our great reservoir of spiritual resources. We must recognize that human collaboration is not enough, that in times such as these we must reach beyond ourselves if we are to seek ultimate courage and infinite wisdom."

"It is an ironic fact that in this nuclear age, when the horizon of human knowledge and human experience has passed far beyond any that any age has ever known, that

we turn back at this time to the oldest source of wisdom and strength, to the words of the prophets and the saints, who tell us that faith is more powerful than doubt, that hope is more potent than despair, and that only through the love that is sometimes called charity can we conquer those forces within ourselves and throughout all the world that threaten the very existence of mankind."

In a personal testimony of his own faith, President Kennedy said, "No man who enters into the office to which I have succeeded can fail to recognize how every President of the United States has placed special reliance upon his faith in God."

Every President, he told the 800 men who gathered for the breakfast, has taken comfort from the assurance given in Deuteronomy 31: 8, that the Lord "Will be with thee. He will not fail thee nor forsake thee. Fear not — neither be thou dismayed."

Although America's Presidents have come from a wide variety of religious backgrounds, "each in his own way has placed a special trust in God," said President Kennedy.

He ended his brief talk by reading the prayer which closed General George Washington's Farewell Address to his troops in 1783.

Dark Eyes Lazy Ears

Kingston—Some of Jamaica's figures of speech are quite picturesque, according to Rev. Charles J. Eberle, S.J. of Somerville, Mass., who is pastor of St. Anne's Church here.

When a man can't read, he does not admit it, but tells you that his "eyes are dark." If a man is deaf, he makes no mention of it, but says that his "ears are lazy."

Recently Father Eberle had reason to get a man's signature. Rather than say that he could not write, the man begged off by explaining that he had a "lame finger."

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