

# Girl Scout Sunday March 12



Girl Scout Sunday will be marked in churches of the Diocese March 12.

The date also marks the 49th birthday of the Girl Scout program.

In the Rochester Diocese, an estimated 10,000 youngsters are enrolled as Girl Scouts.

Many parish groups will schedule special church rites to be followed by exhibits of Scout projects or with advancement ceremonies.

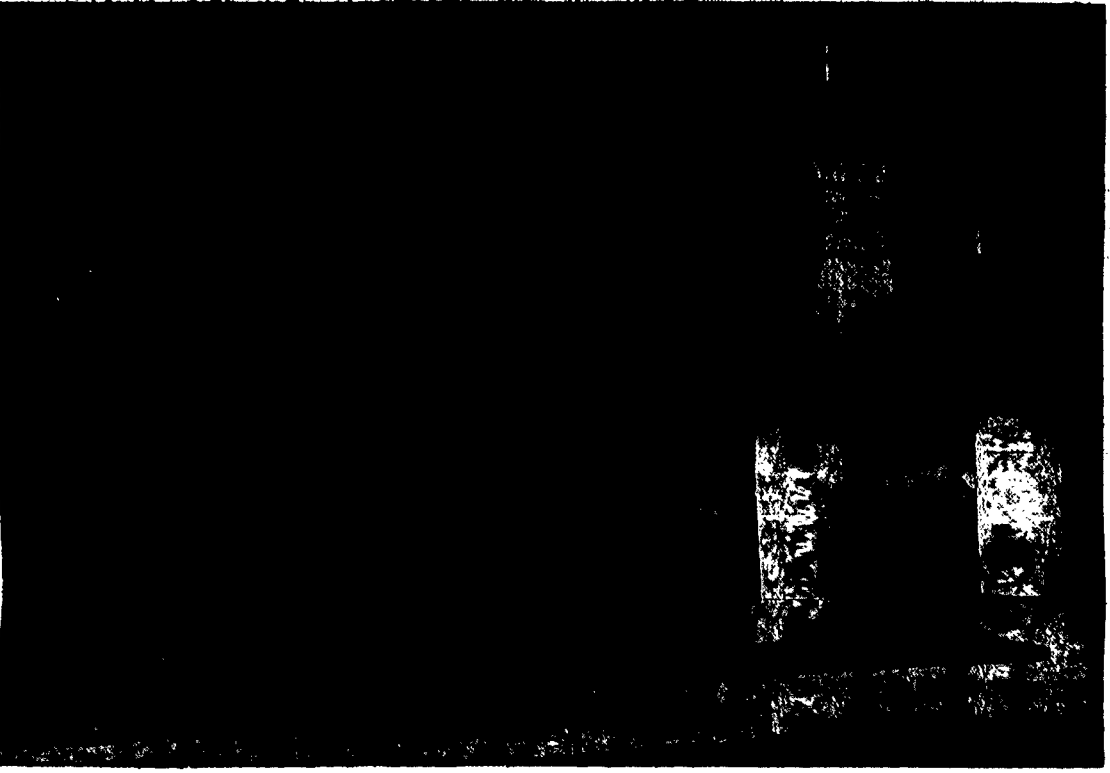
Typical of Scout activities are those pictured here.

Brownies of St. Thomas More parish, Brighton, work on scrap books and decorated boxes. Brownies shown are Ann Scofield, Marianne Oakes, Dianne Biedenbach, and Sheila Schomburg.

Girl Scout artists are Sheila Callahan and Jeanine Kucher.

Learning first aid are Evelyn Turner, Marilyn O'Brien, Ann Robertson, Cynthia Zabkar and Leader Mrs. Edward Callahan.

Part of Scout training is reverence for God — as exemplified by girls in church prior to Scout meeting.



## Freedom Awards For Schools

Valley Forge — (RNS) — Three Catholic colleges and 43 secondary and parochial schools scattered throughout the U.S. were cited in the annual Freedom Foundation award ceremony marking Washington's Birthday here.

The Jesuits' Xavier University, Cincinnati, received the highest award in the college category, \$500 cash and the encased George Washington Medal of Honor. Xavier was cited — as it has been with lesser honors previously by the Freedom Foundation — for its "Operation Youth" — a week of study at the university by high school students on "Democracy in Action."

Father Michael P. Walsh of the Jesuits' Boston College, was one of a score of citizens given the Washington Medal for an outstanding public address.

The Christophers was cited for its "continuing campaign to spark personal initiative by people fired with love of God and country."

The National Council of Catholic Men and the NBC were honored for "The War for Geoffrey Wilson" on the Catholic Hour.

Eight Catholic schools were among 27 recipients of the principal school awards, entitling a Valley Forge pilgrimage by one teacher and pupil from each school, as well as the medal.

## Let Schools Be Partners

Wilmington — (NC) — A plea for a partnership between the nation's public and private schools for the common good was made here by a noted Jesuit educator.

Father Neil G. McCluskey, S.J., dean of education at Gonzaga University, Spokane, Wash., and former education editor of America, suggested use of home economics kitchens and vocational training shops of public schools be made available to all children of the community.

It is true that a large number of Christians have hitherto been employed by big companies and in government offices because of their education. Now their qualifications are downgraded because of their religion.

Official figures put the Christian proportion of the population of Egypt as only five per cent, whereas it is believed to be anything from 12 to 16 per cent. The low official estimate is evidently intended to justify the low percentage of Christians now being employed and the still lower percentage of those already employed who have reached the upper ranks.

A Christian has very little chance of attaining a high position, civilian or military. Of some 50 cabinet ministers, regional and central of the United Arab Republic, only two are Christians.

No Christian in Egypt sees an encouraging prospect ahead for himself or his children. Hence an estimated 30,000 Christian Arab citizens of Syria-Lebanon stock, have gone "on vacation" or on business to Lebanon, never to return. Some have stayed in Lebanon. Some have gone on to Latin America.

One important reason why Christian parents with young families have departed is the policy of President Nasser's government in regard to Christian education. Not only is Christian education being progressively crippled in Egypt today, the government is actually setting Muslim teaching into it.

## Queen To Visit School Centenary

By MICHAEL DERRICK

Old Windsor — (NC) — Queen Elizabeth will visit Beaumont College here on May 15 to mark the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Jesuit school.

Beaumont College stands in a spot rich in historical associations. Its boys have their football fields on Runnymede, the meadow alongside the Thames River where the English Barons forced King John to sign the Magna Carta in 1215.

The fine 18th-century mansion which forms the main building of the college was once the home of Warren Hastings, the first governor general of India.

The Jesuit Fathers acquired the house and used it as a novitiate for seven years before they opened a school there. The first pupils arrived in October, 1861.

THE CENTENARY will be celebrated on October 10, which will begin at Beaumont with a Mass of thanksgiving and will end with a fireworks display — fireworks being an art in which the school has much experience, gained through a hundred years of participation in displays arranged in Windsor to mark many royal rejoicings.

On three such occasions in the 19th century Queen Victoria called on the boys of Beaumont College. On each occasion a triumphal arch was erected, with banks of flowers on either hand.

The boys assembled to greet Queen Victoria with thunderous cheers. The head boy of the school read a loyal address to the Queen, who accepted its text inscribed on parchment and made an appropriate reply. Another boy presented the Queen with a bouquet and she said a few words of appreciation to the Jesuit rector.

Each time, however, there was a sequel to which the boys could look forward: the arrival a few days later of a note from Windsor Castle expressing Queen Victoria's thanks and requesting the rector to grant the boys an extra holiday. This request was never refused.

The first of these royal visits to Beaumont College was early in 1882. A madman had fired a shot at Queen Victoria at the railway station at Windsor, and a group of Beaumont boys present had been among the first to apprehend the would-be assassin.

## Old Frescoes Discovered

Cuernavaca — (RNS) — During renovation of an old Franciscan cathedral church and convent in this scenic Mexican town, workmen uncovered 18th century frescoes underneath several layers of paint on the walls.

The rector of the college immediately assembled all the boys to sing a "Te Deum" in thanksgiving for the preservation of the Queen's life. He then asked permission for the boys to present an address of congratulation to the Queen. This was granted, and Queen Victoria drove down to receive it.

The other two occasions both marked Queen Victoria's jubilees, the 50th and 60th anniversaries of her accession in 1837 and 1897.

The Jesuit Fathers of Beaumont have always erected patriotic Latin mottos at their gates, and the boys enjoyed a celebration on every occasion when Windsor was celebrating some royal event. And from time to time Catholic guests at Windsor Castle have come to Mass in the college chapel.

## Pledge Made To End Bias

Syracuse — (RNS) — A total of 3,400 persons here have publicly approved a pledge they will support equal housing rights for Negroes. The statement was initiated by the Syracuse Interfaith Committee on Open Occupancy, representing Protestant, Catholic and Jewish groups.

The "open occupancy pledge" and the names of 3,400 signers were run in full-page newspaper ads. The ad said those named "here today publicly pledged themselves to actively support, within their community, the principle of equal housing opportunities for all persons regardless of color, creed or national origin."

## Queen's Visit Set May 5

London — (RNS) — Queen Elizabeth II will make her long-anticipated visit to Pope John XXIII on May 5, at the conclusion of a four-day state visit to Italy, according to an announcement from Buckingham Palace.

The Queen, who will be accompanied by her husband, Prince Philip, will be the first reigning British monarch — by law the head of the Church of England — to visit a Pope since King George V called upon Pope Pius XI in 1923, and King Edward VII was received by Pope Leo XIII in 1903.

## Christians Need Communist Jolt

Quito — (NC) — The Bishops of Ecuador condemned "the unjustifiable blindness" of big landowners for refusing to heed the Church's teaching on social justice and the equitable distribution of wealth.

Because of the antisocial activities of some of the rich, they said in a joint pastoral letter, sudden and violent outbursts by the downtrodden Indian population should come as no surprise.

"The Christians of today sometimes need the jolt of communism to be awakened to the reality of the Gospels," the Bishops said.

The pastoral was published at the conclusion of a national meeting of the nation's 22 bishops.

## Scales Always Favor Moslems

# Freedom Ebbs In Egypt

By FATHER PATRICK O'CONNOR  
Society of St. Columban

Cairo — (NC) — Pressure against Christians in Egypt seems to have tightened even since my last visit six months ago.

Catholics, Orthodox and Protestants alike feel that their difficulties have increased. "The situation is rapidly getting worse," a Protestant said. "In the past six months or year, the pressure has become greater," a priest said.

There is no sign of overt persecution for the camera-carrying tourist to see in Egypt, now the Southern Region of the United Arab Republic.

Churches are open. Mass is celebrated in seven Catholic rites in Cairo. Catholic schools are open. Occasionally a cabinet minister pays a compliment to the Christians in a speech or by attending a ceremony.

According to the provisional constitution there is no state religion. Most of the laws seem to be the same for all, Christians and Moslems.

THE REALITIES of daily life are far different from what these appearances suggest.

"Equality does not exist" a Christian citizen of the U.A.R. said sadly. Then he asked me urgently not to write his name, for fear that the authorities might find my notebook.

"In practice they won't recognize a Christian Arab as a real Arab," another Christian said. "The scales are always weighed down in favor of the Moslem."

The sense of increased pressure comes largely from the over-tightening controls and restrictions which affect life in every field in this socialistic state. In many respects they stamp Moslems as much as Christians. But where religion is even remotely concerned, the state controls are heavily anti-Christian and pro-Moslem.

For instance, local authorities can give a permit to build a Moslem mosque. To build a church, a permit must be obtained from the office of President Gamal Abdel Nasser.

Every year of the year, the Moslem religious calendar...

The increasing pressure against Christianity is felt particularly in economic affairs and in education.

A Christian seeking employment finds that he is handicapped by his religion. "In filling jobs the preference is always given to Moslems," an office worker of long experience told me. Hence already some Christians hide their Christian names when applying for positions.

Government inspectors, of whom there are many, have advised banks and even some foreign airlines with offices in Cairo not to employ any more Christians.

It is true that a large number of Christians have hitherto been employed by big companies and in government offices because of their education. Now their qualifications are downgraded because of their religion.

Official figures put the Christian proportion of the population of Egypt as only five per cent, whereas it is believed to be anything from 12 to 16 per cent. The low official estimate is evidently intended to justify the low percentage of Christians now being employed and the still lower percentage of those already employed who have reached the upper ranks.

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