

GOD LOVE YOU!

By MOST REV. FULTON J. SHEEN

The following is a letter we received:

Dear Bishop Sheen,

I am a Junior at the Academy of Our Lady and by the special grace of God I am a Catholic. (I made my First Holy Communion last May.) Since freshman year, however, I have been a homeroom Mission Chairman, and I sincerely believe that by helping others to spread the Faith, Christ very generously gave me that Faith!

However, I'd better get down to my real reason for writing this letter. The day for ordering class rings is approaching, and the more I think about it, the more I realize that twenty dollars would do much more good if it were used to help those fighting for Christ than it would if it were used to decorate me with more gold than I could possibly wear at once.

Therefore, you will find enclosed twenty dollars for The Society for the Propagation of the Faith. This comes not for praise (I'm proud enough), but simply from a grateful Catholic.

God Love You!

K.C.H.

This is our reply:

My dear Friend,

Your letter was one of the most beautiful I have ever received. First of all, I note the Good Lord has given you the gift of Faith; but before it came you were already serving the Missions as Mission Chairman of your class. Your conversion reminds me of what the Cure of Ars wrote to Pauline Jaricot, "Those who aid the Propagation of the Faith will never lose the Faith"; except in your case it means: those who serve the Propagation of the Faith will receive the gift of Faith.

As regards the ring, I know how much a ring means to a senior in high school; therefore, I know how much the Missions mean to you. In surrendering the ring for the sake of Our Lord, you practically put it on His Fingers, saying: "With this ring I Thee betroth."

Furthermore, by giving up the ring you are actually helping those who have no fingers, such as the lepers in foreign lands. Perhaps you noticed the scar on Our Lord's Hands; be sure He has noted the sacrifice on your own.

Some day you will get the ring back, and in a far greater ceremony than becoming a senior. The Heavenly Father will say to you on the Last Day words like those the father of the prodigal son said to him on his return: "Put a ring on her hand." God Love You!

Wishing you every blessing, assuring you of my prayers and begging your own, I am

Faithfully yours in Christ,
Most Rev. Fulton J. Sheen
National Director

Do you have \$20 which would do more good for those fighting for Christ than it is doing for you personally? If this letter inspires you to deny yourself a luxury and make a sacrifice for the Holy Father's Missions, send it to us and we will see that he receives it.

GOD LOVE YOU TO M.A.S. for \$10 "This small token is to thank Our Lady for saving our home from a surrounding forest fire." . . . to Mrs. J.H. for \$28.10 "I have always said that if I were to win the Irish Sweepstakes, half would go to Bishop Sheen for the Missions. With God's help, I won 20 pounds." . . . to S.P. for \$1 "I am 11 years old. This is one week's allowance to help the poor children in Hong Kong."

Cut out this column, pin your sacrifice to it and mail it to Most Rev. Fulton J. Sheen, National Director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, 366 Fifth Avenue, New York 17, N.Y. or your Diocesan Director, Rev. George S. Wood, 50 Chestnut Street, Rochester 4, New York.

POOREST OF THE POOR

This phrase aptly describes the four nuns who, a few years ago when their newly-founded Community was in its infancy, opened a convent in KOKKALA in INDIA. Sister Albina, the superior of the Convent which is named in honor of Saint Augustine, writes to tell us that as soon as the Sisters were settled in the Convent they opened a Dispensary and began the building of a Chapel. At present the Chapel is only half-finished and is used for giving religious instructions to the children of the district. \$3,000 will enable the Sisters to finish the Chapel, make better arrangements for teaching religion to the children, and enable them to do more effective work in their Dispensary. The Sisters of this new Community, known as the Sisters of Charity of the Diocese of Trichur, India, are truly filled with the spirit of self-sacrifice and charity. Could you help them in their work?



The Holy Father's Mission Aid for the Oriental Church

AS AN EASTER GIFT to a relative or to a friend, why not give a Sacred Article to a Mission Church in his or her name? We will send the person so remembered a beautiful Easter Gift Card. Another thought is to give a Membership in our Association or a Membership in one of our Mission Clubs.

IRELAND AND LEBANON

A distinguished priest, who in his lifetime did much to aid the people of the Middle East, frequently referred to Maronite Catholics as the "Irish of the East." He used the phrase as a tribute to the great faith of these Eastern Rite Catholics, the majority of whom are Lebanese; being of Irish ancestry and proud of the fact that the Irish have held fast to their faith despite centuries of persecution, he felt a kinship to the people of Lebanon who have jealously guarded their faith through as many centuries and as much persecution as the people of Ireland. The century of Saint Patrick in Ireland was the same century as that of Saint Maro in Lebanon, from whom the Maronites take their name.

Like the people of Ireland the people of Lebanon have never suffered for lack of vocations. There have always been generous boys and girls in Lebanon who have offered their lives to God as priests, sisters, and brothers. At SAINT ANTHONY'S SEMINARY, near the Cedars of Lebanon, JOSEPH SALAMEH and JEAN DEBS are studying to be priests. Among many Lebanese girls training to be Sisters are SISTER THERESA and SISTER MARIE ANGE, novices of the MARONITE SISTERS OF SAINT THERESA.

Could you finance the education of a boy for the priesthood, or a girl for the sisterhood? According to our standards it really does not cost too much to pay for the training of a priest or sister in Mission territory. Then, too, the whole amount does not have to be paid all at once; it may be given in installments of periods from three to six years. Perhaps you could "adopt" one of the above-mentioned boys or girls in honor of Saint Patrick or in honor of Saint Maro. If you could we will be pleased to write to you about the method of payment.

MISSIONARIES AND MASSES

Many Missionary priests depend almost solely for their material support on Mass stipends. If you are going to remember a deceased loved-one at Easter time, by having Masses celebrated, we will be happy to receive the offerings and send them on to priests in the Near and Middle East.

Near East Missions logo and contact information for Francis Cardinal Spellman, President, and Catholic Near East Welfare Association, 400 Lexington Ave., New York 17, N.Y.

BOOK SHELF

Seminary Priest Authors Spiritual Life Book

By SISTER MARGARET TERESA
Nazareth College

The Only Life, by Rev. Albert Shamon, Bruce.

This book has power. It removes those little doubts that make the God-fearing Christian almost afraid to become God-loving, almost shy of talking to God too intimately. It does so by a truly powerful appeal to reason, by a direct, unswerving exposition of what makes us tick, spiritually.

FATHER SHAMON brings to the field — a guaranteed oil-field, our soul — the biggest, finest equipment: the solid doctrine, the ideas we need. He has that hearty enthusiasm born of memories of success: the dream has come true before, God has often worked this wonder.

He draws assistance from many areas of human experience and skill: the Bible, good literature, daily happenstance. Then he starts: into the fallow earth goes the big drill, big enough to reach China in the deepest heart. Point by point, foot by foot, he proceeds.

The proper activity of our interior life is to know and love God. "The interior life is . . . the divine life a man has when he is in the state of grace (the habitual interior life). But viewed from the angle of its activity, the interior life is . . . the soul in grace striving to know, love, and serve the God within it (the actual interior life)." Then comes a briefing on the three stages of this life, the necessity of living this way, the death sleep we endure when we fail to try, when we cheat ourselves of trying.

There follows, in Chapter 2, Life Principles, as potent and clear an exposition of supernatural and actual grace, virtues and gifts, as I have ever had the good fortune to see. These are not easy topics — but Father Shamon easily carries his audience through to an understanding of them.

Here is his handling of the differences between natural and supernatural virtue: "Both natural and supernatural virtues are alike in that they effect a change in the faculties of man. A faculty can be affected by change in two ways. You can train it, like a retrieving bird dog, so that the faculty will perform a good action easily and almost automatically; and that is the function of the natural virtues. Or you can uplift the faculty, elevate and empower it — as the telescope does the eye — so that the faculty can range far beyond its natural powers; and that is the function of the supernatural virtues."

And on page 31, a longer passage that says much about his method, appears: "There is a tremendous difference between the gifts and the supernatural virtues. The virtues are operative habits: like the outboard motor of a boat, they give man a new capacity to act. The gifts are dispositive habits: like the sails of a ship, they give man receptivity to the breezes of God's operating graces or, like seven channels on a television set, they make possible a good reception of God's telecasting."

"The virtues are energized by God's co-operating graces; the gifts, by His operating graces. The activation of the

virtues, therefore, depends on man himself; as a result, he can practice the virtues when he wills. The activation of the gifts depends on God; that is why man cannot use the gifts save only when God wills. The virtues are like the harp which the harpist can play at will; the gifts make man's soul a unique harp which can be played only by God, and so only when He wills.

"By the virtues, man acts with God's help (God is like a mother helping her child walk); by the gifts, God acts with man's consent (God is like a mother carrying her child). The virtues enable man to perform supernatural acts, but in a human way; that is, man, aided by God's cooperating grace, uses his own reason and will in deliberating and deciding how a thing is to be done. The gifts enable man to perform supernatural acts but in a divine way; that is, man consents to God's impulse, not as a result of his own previous deliberation, but as if by divine instinct.

"The virtues will blossom into very good and delightful acts (the fruits of the Holy Spirit); the gifts into still more perfect acts (the beatitudes). The virtues form the basis of the ascetical life; the gifts are the warp and woof of the mystical life."

Then we are ready for the wonderful result of our drilling: the gusher comes in. And we are ready for these chapters on Christ and Mary, on life with God within us. We are hungry for the greatest thing of life, the living presence of God-within us. We don't want to sleep all the way to eternity in the arms of God. We would like to wake up, and act ourself, He being the Way.

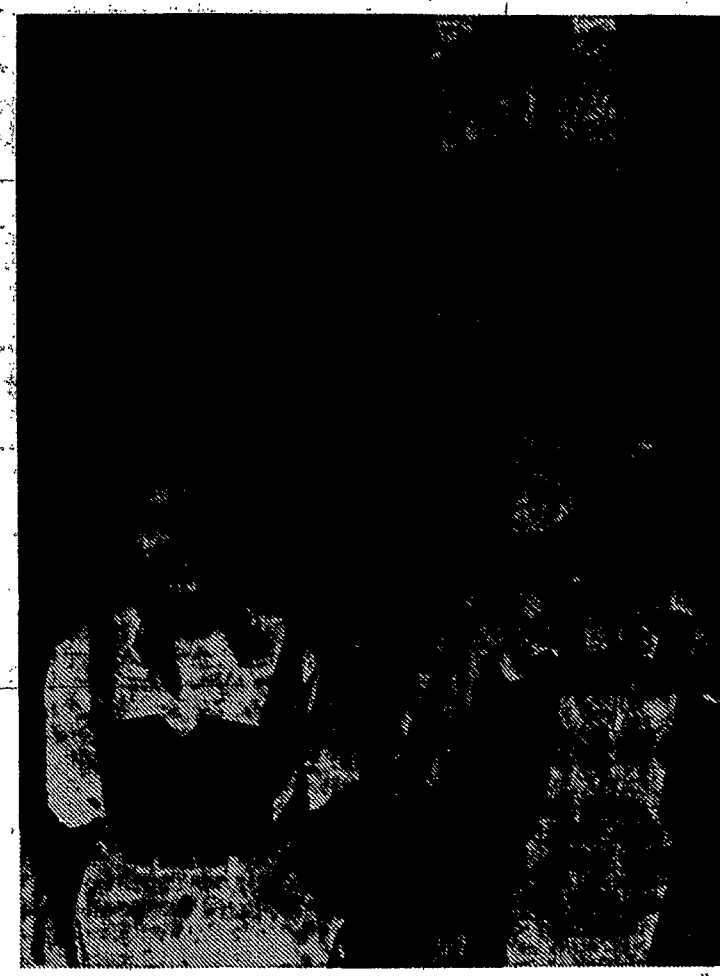
A practical scheme for deepening our Lent, making up for a possible weak start, would be the reading of this book.

Students OK State Aid Plan

Convent Station — (RNS) — A regional meeting of the National Federation of Catholic College Students here gave firm support to New York Gov. Rockefeller's college tuition plan for New York state residents.

Representatives of the New York-New Jersey Region of the NFCCS defended the governor's proposals because "a healthy and beneficial competition is accomplished in a pluralistic society where not everyone is trained in the exact manner in the same type of institution."

The delegates adopted a resolution recommending that students now in colleges contact their legislative representatives to express support of the Rockefeller plan. Copies of the resolution were forwarded to Gov. Rockefeller, New York State legislators and U.S. congressional members.



"Swiss Guard" in Boston

Boston — (RNS) — The entrance to the Children's Museum here took on the appearance of a Vatican City portal in an "international week" observance. Karsten Hartel (right), former president of the museum's junior council, donned the costume of a papal Swiss Guard to welcome visitors. He is shown with Jane Moloney who made her own Swiss costume. But the Moloney girl looks more like an Irish colleen than a Swiss Miss.

Puerto Rico

Church Party Aims For 1964

Quebradillas — (NC) — The Christian Action Party has resolved to start gathering affidavits to get a place on the 1964 ballot here.

The party supported by this island's Catholic Archbishop and Bishops announced this at its constituent assembly here. It also elected officers to replace acting officials.

About 255 delegates from 44 political precincts represented the organization whose formation last June came after Catholic protests over failure of the island's legislature to act on a proposal for religious instruction of public school students on a dismissed time basis.

THE PARTY, which alleged during its unsuccessful campaign last November that Catholic rights were being ignored here, continued this theme at its assembly. A resolution it adopted charged the government and the secular press with persecution of the Church. "There exists a state of persecution deliberately aimed against the Church and its Bishops," the assembly said.

The CAP also alleged that this persecution is aimed at "discrediting the Church and trampling the rights of thousands of citizens to organize a political party within the law for the defense of Christian principles."

When the party was formed last summer, it was defended by the Catholic hierarchy and its organizational efforts were aided by the permission of the Bishops to use church halls — but not churches themselves — as meeting places.

Bath Men Organize New KC Council For Area

Bath — A new Knights of Columbus council in this area is in the making. At a meeting in Bath Municipal Building March 7 it was decided to institute the new unit and it was voted to apply for a charter.

The men forming the nucleus of the council will meet at the same place on Tuesday, March 14 to which all Catholic men of the Bath area are invited. The motion picture "Noble Heritage" will be shown.

At the organization meeting were the Rev. John P. O'Malley, pastor of St. Mary's Church, Leo Carty, chairman of new council development from New Haven; Martin Cole, general agent; E. Farkus, field agents and District Deputy Thomas Hanley who outlined the procedure to be followed in the organization of the new council. The meeting was conducted by District Deputy Hanley.

Vatican Stamps

Vatican City — (NC) — Pope St. Leo the Great, who stopped Attila the Hun at the gates of Rome in the fifth century, will be commemorated in a series of Vatican stamps on the 15th centenary of his death.

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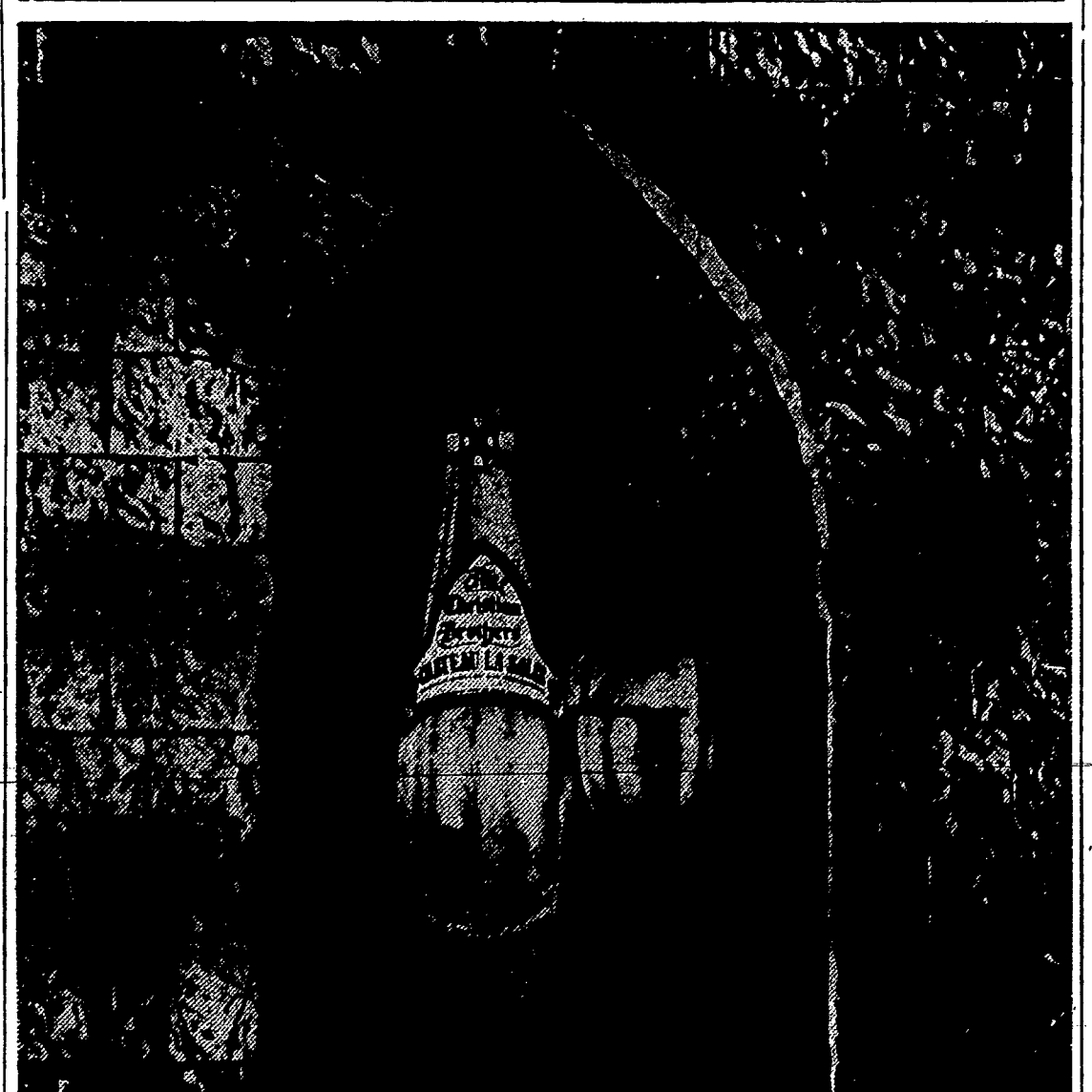
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BERNARD HELD advertisement featuring an illustration of a woman in a dress and text: "Easter's So Early You Must Wear MINK . . . and, a fabulous Emba Autumn Haze Jacket is Mink Magnifique Special \$995 fed. tax at only inc. CONVENIENT PAYMENTS NO CARRY CHARGES ROCHESTER'S LARGEST EXCLUSIVE FURRIER EUCLID AT ATLAS ST."



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