

# An Honest Man Makes The Headlines

By GERARD E. SHERRY

Editor, Central California Register

What would you do if you found \$240,000? This was the recent problem of Douglas William Johnson of Los Angeles. He left his home looking for a job and ended up finding a bag of money. What is more, the \$240,000 was in unmarked bills lying in the middle of the street.

What did Mr. Johnson do? He turned it over to the FBI. They, in turn, found it had fallen from a Brinks armored car soon after it had left a California bank.

We talk a lot these days about how dishonest many people are. Yet, here is an unemployed worker who finds such a tremendous amount of money and promptly takes it to the police. It was negotiable money with nothing higher than a \$10 bill. No numbers were recorded and he could have lived well on it.

There's one further point. He was unemployed and broke.

Mr. Johnson was also Negro. His race is often accused of being unscrupulous and criminal. Yet, this Negro was a credit to his race and to his fellow citizens.

Dishonesty in any form can always make the headlines, yet the honest folk very seldom get reported. It is good to know that despite the critics there are still a few who exercise

responsibility, even if all the breaks are against them.

It is an interesting study of human nature. You find a dime or dollar in the street and you pocket it. There is hardly any way to trace the owner. If you don't like getting money that way you can always turn to the poor box. But there are plenty of scoundrels around who find wallets with little money in them but a lot of important documentation, but they don't have the decency to return it, even anonymously.

I had an experience like this several months ago. I mislaid a wallet which had certificates which I needed, some credit cards (even editors have to eat) and about \$12 in cash. There was no use going to the police because I didn't know where I had left it. But I was hoping for an honest person to pick it up.

I prayed that if this didn't happen, that at least it would be a person who was only a little bit dishonest. As far as I was concerned he could take the money and send the wallet back with the rest of its contents in a plain envelope.

I had no such luck, although I did get the wallet back with the documents; gone was the cash and the credit cards. I notified the various companies and the police, but I was still stuck with a \$49.22 bill through somebody going on a spree at my expense. This is not too bad.

But what about the scoundrel who finds a lot of money in a wallet which has identity in it and runs away with it. Sometimes it is all that some people have between pay days, or pension time. It is, normally, the poor, who suffer most from dishonesty. It also appears to be that most of the poor are strikingly honest.

Maybe it is because they know what it feels like not to have money. Maybe it is a question of both conscience and that wonderful bond of human understanding.

Douglas Johnson needed money; yet he was honest when he found nearly a quarter of a million dollars. He didn't know who it belonged to, but it wasn't his, so he gave it up. Was he looking for a reward. Maybe he was and maybe he wasn't. However, up to the time of writing, he hadn't been offered one, although the Brinks people did offer him a job.

If only there were a lot more honest people, not only in finding money or something which is not rightly theirs, but also in general, social and business intercourse. For example: the grocer who gives short measure to the customer; the fellow who overcharges for a product; the worker who fails to give a full day's work for a full day's pay; the businessman who uses fraudulent advertising for his products; and the fellow who offers the reduction which is way above the regular price.

All these dishonest occurrences happen

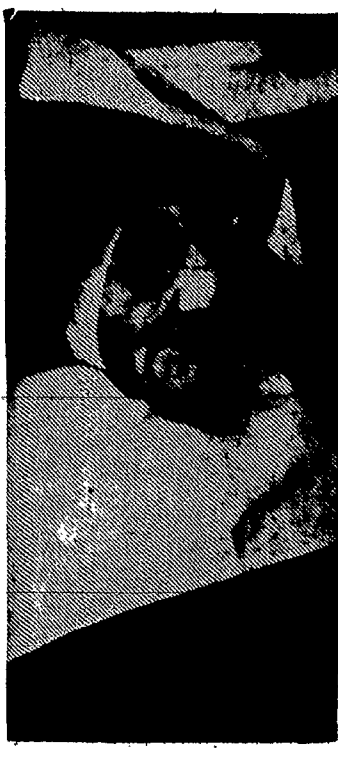
every day, in every branch of our society, and we have come to accept them as normal happenings. We don't get incensed about it; we seldom bother. Hence, we're practically as guilty as the fellow who's trying to bilk us.

In other words we are encouraging dishonesty when we don't protest its presence. If people spoke up there would be less dishonesty, and our world would be a better place.

Naturally, it involves our own consciences; finding out whether we are party to fraud, even by association or apathy. You can stretch this all the way to the question of family finances.

Is the husband who doesn't adequately share his salary with his wife and family guilty of dishonesty? Is the son or daughter who lives at home and gives only a small amount to the cost of family housekeeping dishonest too? The question of justice is ever present. Dishonesty can take many forms.

Of course, this homily was all started by an unemployed Negro man finding \$240,000 which had dropped off a Brinks armored car. He was honest enough to return it, but what about Brinks' responsibility in this regard. How negligent are you when you let almost a quarter of a million drop on the sidewalk — especially when it is other people's money? Maybe that can be a subject of another Reapings.



85 Years

Sister Leonidas Rattacher who marked her 85th birthday last month is probably the world's oldest typist. The elderly nun entered convent life when she was 14 years old and taught in Catholic schools until she was 30. Then she returned to her convent here in Tyrol where she teaches shorthand and typing.

## Tithes Plan On Increase

Springfield — (RNS) — A tithing system will be instituted on Easter Sunday at St. Mary's Catholic church here at the suggestion of a group of men from the parish.

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## Maryland Bus Rides For Pupils

Annapolis — (RNS)—A huge crowd of placard-waving supporters jammed the House of Delegates here as public hearings began on a bill to provide free bus transportation for parochial school students in Baltimore (Md.) County.

The bill proposes lifting the current \$15,000 ceiling the county appropriates annually for transportation of private school children and would give free bus service to parochial school children in grades one through 12.

Meanwhile, a similar bill affecting transportation of parochial school students in Anne Arundel County (Md.) was introduced. This measure proposes free bus service for parochial school children living more than a mile from their school.

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## GOD LOVE YOU!

By MOST REV. FULTON J. SHEEN

It is easy for prosperous people who have nothing to trouble them to give advice to suffering hearts, but such advice is often as futile as it is easy. If ever you want advice and counsel, never go to anyone who has not suffered either physically or spiritually. If you can, find a missionary who has suffered in China or Korea or Vietnam, or who has spent some of his life in the hardships of the Amazon.

Who with all the pressure of personal sorrows weighing upon him, wrote: "Nothing must make you anxious, in every need make your request known to God praying and beseeching Him and giving Him thanks as well." It was Paul, a prisoner in a Roman jail at a time when the Eagle of Rome had fixed its claws into his body. Like a bird, he learned to sing when his cage darkened.

When you are troubled, therefore, go not to someone perched upon a safe hill, who shouts to the strugglers in the field below; but go to a man who is in the thick of the fight and who alone can sound the trumpet call to those engaged in battle.

If no one ever comes to you for counsel, examine your conscience. Have you ever felt the sting of self-denial? Have you ever made an act of self-denial for 30 days in order to feed a leper? Your heart, is like two mill stones; if there is not something between them, they will destroy one another. If the love of Christ and His Church in the entire world is not in your heart, then it will wear itself out with the stony materialism of your interest. We have never met an unhappy man who has made sacrifices for the Holy Father in order that Christ's Name be proclaimed and loved.

Send your sacrifices to the Holy Father through his Society for the Propagation of the Faith and he will distribute them to the needy of the world.

GOD LOVE YOU TO C.O. for \$5 "I am 85 years old and on a pension, but saved this amount to help in the wonderful work you are doing." . . . to E.O. for \$54 "I am enclosing three days pay for the poor of the world in loving gratitude to the beloved Saints who heard my prayers and interceded for me." . . . to C.S. for \$1 "I am eleven years old and hope to be a missionary. This is my sacrifice for the Missions."

You who are interested in the activities of missionaries all over the world will want to read **MISSION, MISSION** is a bi-monthly publication containing pictures, stories and details of our Holy Father's Missions. Send a request to be put on our mailing list along with your sacrifice.

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.

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## BOOK SHELF

### Prayer, Plaque, Poem

By SISTER MARGARET TERESA Nazareth College

The Way of St. Alphonsus Liguori, ed. with Introduction by Barry Ulanov. Kennedy '61. 367 selected pages. \$4.95.

Two American-Background books for the ten-to-fourteens: John Hughes, Eagle of the Church, by Dorn Hurlley. Kennedy '61. Indexed and illustrated, 192 pp. \$2.50.

Margaret Haughery, Bread Woman of New Orleans, by Flora Strousse. Indexed and illustrated, 191 pp., \$2.50.

Times Three: Selected Verse from Three Decades, with Seventy New Poems. Foreword by W. H. Auden. Viking '60. \$5.00.

The Way of St. Alphonsus is prayer-book size, and filled with the compelling ardor of the famous Little Visits to the Blessed Sacrament — but in this prayer-book one can pursue the secret of sanctity to the hidden places of the heart and to the highest reaches of Our Lord's desire for us.

The volumes drawn upon are mainly this prolific lawyer-saint's works on the virtues, on the mysteries of the Faith, and on Mary. The selections move from the incarnation, the Blessed Sacrament, the Holy Ghost, Mary, to the Love of God and how to practice it, how to live from morning to night and from year to year in it, how to pray, and how to take God's Will.

There is even a reading-plan for the year, and practices, prayers, counsels for the soul's difficult times. There is a vivid resume of the startling life of this great founder of the Redemptorists, and Dr. Ulanov ends it on this promise: "He shows us how to pray, as if our life depended on it, for he is sure that it does."

The two American-Background books published this week for younger readers will delight their teachers as well, since they deal with events right in line with today's problems. Both set a tale in America of the mid-nineteenth century, one covering Bishop Hughes' forthright dealing with the question of Catholic Schools in Philadelphia and New York, the other picturing New Orleans in a day when racial problems were even more acute than now: Creoles, Irish, Germans, Protestants, Jews, Negroes, all at odds in time of peace and

all working nobly together in time of plague or danger to the nation.

What is most surprising in these stories is to see the constant and intimate support given to these great-hearted Catholics by the highest authorities of their world—given by Lincoln and Seward to Bishop Hughes, and by the most influential of varied races in New Orleans to Margaret the Bread Woman as she climbs to riches herself in order to be able to give.

Phyllis McGinley is a special gift to the modern family. It's just cheating yourself not to know these happy-go-lucky, tender, joyously opinionated verses about children, neighbors, houses, husbands, wives, books, arty people, seasons, funny folk of history, the whole adre-pated world careening through space and hoping for the best. For instance:

This side of childhood lies a narrow land its laws unwritten, altering out of hand. But more than Sparta's savage-ly severe. Common or gentry. The same taboos prevail. One learns, by ear. The customs of the country Or pays her forfeit here . . .

All of a sudden, bicycles are toys. Not locomotion. Bicycles are for boys. And seventh-graders, screaming when they talk. A girl would rather Take vows, go hungry, put on last year's frock, Or dance with her own father Than pedal down the block . . .



Saints of Unity

ST. MACRINA THE YOUNGER . . . Eldest of ten children of St. Basil the Elder and St. Emmelia, helped to bring up Basil the Great and Gregory of Nkssa. Macrina afterwards directed a community of women in Pontus, and was famed for miracles. Her feastday is July 19.

## Laity Participation Credited To Pastors

St. Louis — (NC) — Parish priests were commended here for encouraging thousands of lay people to participate at Mass.

"Instead of opposition from pastors, we have found that most have been very zealous in a prudent way — to promote participation," said Father David T. Thomas, executive secretary of the St. Louis Archdiocesan Commission for Sacred Liturgy.

HE NOTED that this year many more people are attending daily Mass during Lent than in previous years.

"This is a wonderful thing," he said. "Instead of giving up something for Lent in a negative way, they are now doing something positive by sacrificing to attend daily Mass. And now our young people are beginning to profit from the example of the adults they see in Church."

"Pastors know their congregations far better than you think," he told the St. Louis Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Men's Institute on Spiritual Development. "No pastor opposes participation, but many don't want to frighten their people, or shock them, or make them angry."

He asserted that participation in the St. Louis cathedral parish, where many of the parishioners are past middle age, had been exemplary.

"Our cathedral parish doesn't have to blush before anyone," he said.

**Swiss Workers** Basel — (NC) — The 20,000 members of the Swiss Catholic Workers' movement have contributed \$187,000 to the participation by the faithful in Mass in the past five years, swerving the responses at Mass, including \$70,000 for a social but that nothing like that had happened in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanganyika.

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