

E. Germans' Loyalty Wins Pope John's Praise

Berlin — (RNS) — Pope John XXIII, in a personal message to the German hierarchy, gave special praise to bishops in a divided country who, he said, were "standing in the forefront of the battle line."

Alluding to the closing of the East and West Berlin border by the Communist authorities last August, he expressed sorrow that "some excellent prelates" were prevented from participating in this year's meeting of the hierarchy at Fulda.

Obviously referring to Catholics in the Soviet Zone, he lauded "Our beloved sons" who remain loyal to their faith despite the unfortunate situation in which they are placed.

He cited especially priests who must work in East Germany under difficult and oppressive circumstances, but nevertheless continue to minister to their flocks "with wisdom and untiring zeal."

US Polish Group Aids Homeland

Milwaukee — (NC) — The Polish Catholic League in this country has contributed more than \$4,500,000 in religious aid to Poland since 1943, the league's executive director told the 18th annual convention of the Polish American Historical Association here.

Persons Commission, said that 18.6 per cent of the United Nations Administration's appropriations and supplies went to Poland in the form of food, clothing, medicines and agricultural and industrial equipment in the immediate post-World War II era. O'Connor, now special projects director at Canisius College, Buffalo, said the UNRRA program for Poland was the largest of any of its single programs for a liberated country.

In the convention keynote address, Rep. Clement J. Zablocki of Wisconsin urged the delegates to "expose communist perversion of facts." He said: "Communists have resorted to wholesale perversion of facts in Poland, detailing highlights of Polish-American relief for Poland from 1939 to 1950, said Polish-American: in this country contributed more than \$16 million for aid of Polish refugees in various parts of the world between 1939 and 1947. 1942, has 700 members in 22 Edward M. O'Connor, former member of the U.S. Displaced



Saints of Unity

ST. JOHN THE ALMSGIVER... made Patriarch of Alexandria in 608, his first deed was to distribute 80,000 pieces of gold to hospitals and monasteries. Charity on this scale was continued throughout the time of his rule. He died in 619 in Cyprus, his birthplace. His feastday is January 23.

BOOK SHELF

Year of the Miracle

By SISTER MARGARET TERESA
Nazareth College

The Mystery of God's Love, by Dom Georges Lefebvre, O.S.B. Sheed '61. 146 pp. At all Catholic bookstores.
The Wellsprings of Prayer, by Dom Georges Lefebvre, O.S.B.

This could be the year. This could be the year in which the Lord God, incarnate on our altars, renewing His Christlike daily and hourly and minute by minute over the world, "descending into our hearts," as we wonderingly express it, has decided upon personal and permanent possession of certain hearts—ours, for instance.

He is tired of the shilly-shallying—there is no doubt of that. But the great thing is that He is Love, and Love needs only the smallest, slightest "yes" from His creature to accomplish the miracle.

Dom Lefebvre's "Mystery of God's Love" describes this quiet highlight this insistent, insistent Divine Love that needs no help of man when it invades, that given one cravice of entry will deal sweepingly, mercifully with our cloying puny Berlin walls, our silly barbed wire. As you read, you wonder why you thought you had anything to do with it, why you supposed such a day couldn't come until you had passed some more years of backsliding on your promises to pray harder. Nothing, you discover was wanted, or wanting, but your acceptance.

"The absolute gift of God, the gift of love, in which the gift is God himself... an absolute gift," begins even in the act of faith, says Lefebvre. "In the act of faith there is already something of the beatific vision." It finds our acceptance in our desire. "The only purpose of our life is that the desire for God should grow in our heart until it is so strong that when we appear before him we can hold it out to him." "Desire for God is our most precious good... a response to the will to give which is in God... The initiative always come from God."

Father Lefebvre proceeds serenely: We are to be souls of charity; therefore, humble, simple, trusting, moving forward freely, honestly—and through the usual wilderness of human struggles and failings. "This absolute trust is love's pinnacle... It flourishes only in the heart's humility. Never may we allow ourselves a purely human outlook. We accept a divine purpose in the foreseen

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The Date Book

St. Agnes Mothers

Mothers' Club of St. Agnes High School will meet half an hour earlier than usual, Jan. 8 when they get together at Rochester Gas and Electric Corp. on East Ave. for a food demonstration. Members urged to be prompt as a short business session will follow the program.

Mercy Guild

Mercy Guild of the Little Flower meeting at Catholic Women's Club for dessert at 11 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 9. Mrs. Robert Lorey, Mrs. Albert H. Hostesses. Guests of honor will be Reverend Mother Brade, Mother General and Mother Gabriel. A short business session will be followed by installation of new Officers and board members. Officers are: Mrs. Charles Ross, president; Mesdames Harold Winick, Walter Hickey, Elizabeth O'Brien and Joseph G. Kelly, vice presidents; Mrs. Walter Knipper, secretary; Mrs. Joseph P. Crowley, treasurer; Mrs. John Ewing, member-at-large; Mesdames Mrs. Gerald Hamilton, assistant; Mesdames Donald Brennan, Thomas Farrell, Donald Lamertora, John McGrath, William Quinn, Anthony Vigna, first year board members.

St. Borna Women

Women's Auxiliary of Rochester St. Borna Women's Club will meet Wednesday, Jan. 10, 8 p.m. at A. A. U. W. East Ave. A make-up demonstration will be given by Mrs. Mary Krebber, cosmetologist.

Agnes Mothers

Agnes Mothers Club meeting Tuesday, Jan. 9 at 8:15 p.m. in school auditorium. Mrs. Robert Kelly will preside. Speaker will be Rev. Leon G. Hart, C.S.B., vice principal. Rev. Michael B. Biondi, C.S.B. will show slides.

Capri Club

Capri Club members to get together to attend book exchange Tuesday, Jan. 7, 7:30 p.m. Cost of tickets is \$1.50 per person. Reservations necessary with Carole Petrot, G.T. 85236. All intending to meet in lobby at 7 p.m.

Aid Society

Perpetual Help Society meeting Wednesday, Jan. 10 at 1 p.m. in St. Mary's Hospital. Mrs. Marie Faulker, chairman.

Scott and Guild

St. Margaret of Scotland Guild members dinner at Dutch Mill, Dewey Jan. 6. Officers for 1962-63 will be installed. New staff comprises: Mrs. William Wallace, president; Mrs. James Lynch, vice president; Mrs. Martin Brown, secretary; Mrs. James McStravick, treasurer; Mrs. James Lane, delegate; Mrs. James Lane, alternate. Monthly meetings to be held first Wednesday of the month.

Archconfraternity

Members of Archconfraternity of the Holy Family of St. Joseph's Church will receive Holy Communion at 7:30 p.m. Mass Sunday, Jan. 7 at St. Joseph's Church. Mass will be offered for Intentions of living

Catholic Nurses

Rochester Chapter of Catholic Nurses meeting Monday, Jan. 8 at 8 p.m. in St. Mary's Hospital Nurses Home. Speaker will be Rev. Joseph M. Egan, professor of dogmatic theology at St. Bernard's Seminary. His topic, "Evolution."

Villa League

St. Joseph's Villa League meeting Tuesday, January 9 at 8 p.m. at Catholic Women's Club. Hostess will be Mrs. Carl Keller, assisted by Mesdames Irene Dedell, Stanley Elam, William Latus and Charles Crellin.

Parish School

At Atom Site

Los Alamos — (RNS) — Plans were disclosed for the first Catholic parochial school in this community near where the world's first atomic bomb was exploded July 16, 1945.

Private discussions regarding such a school have been underway for more than a year between Catholic officials and the Atomic Energy Commission which governs Los Alamos. The local Immaculate Heart of Mary church and the AEC are seeking a new location for the present church and rectory as well as a new school and convent.

There are 800 Catholic families in Los Alamos, a community of 13,000, and the parish consists of about 3,400 persons.

Holy Name Award To Pittsburgh Layman

New York — (NC) — David M. Martin of Pittsburgh has been named to receive the Vercelli Medal, top award of the National Holy Name Society to a layman in recognition of outstanding service to the society.

The award, named for Blessed John Vercelli, 13th century Master General of the Dominicans who founded the Holy Name Society to promote reverence and devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus, will be presented to Martin at a ceremony in Pittsburgh on March 18. The Vercelli Medal award was established in 1947 and is given annually by the HNS.

Martin, 75, has been engaged in work of the Holy Name Society for more than half a century. He was one of the founders of the HNS branch of Assumption parish in Bellevue, a Pittsburgh suburb, in September, 1910.

A NATIVE of Pittsburgh, Martin was elected president of the Pittsburgh Diocesan Union of Holy Name Societies in 1942 and served for five years. He was a member of the executive board of the union in 1950 when the HNS staged a rally attended by more than 100,000

Throongs Attend Daily Masses

Los Angeles — (NC) — Five daily Masses at Our Lady Chapel in the heart of downtown Los Angeles are attended by 1,500 persons. Father John Sheridan, director, said in a year-end report. More than 100,000 Communions were distributed during the same period of time.

COURIER-JOURNAL 5
Friday, Jan. 5, 1962

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By MOST REV. FULTON J. SHEEN

Many Jews and Protestants are very good to the Missions. During a meeting of The Society for the Propagation of the Faith in San Francisco, three letters arrived with offerings: one with \$100 from a Jew, another with \$25 from a Protestant and another with \$25 from a Catholic.

Certainly, two of these donors gave without any explicit reference to the Church as the Truth and Love of Christ continuing through the centuries. And yet there was some implicit knowledge of it. It could very well be that to some God is seen as velle. After all, if Christ showed Himself in the Eucharist as He really is, we would be blinded by His Glory, and our Faith would be destroyed. For then we would see Him with compelling evidence. It is not necessary to see Christ in the fullness of His revelation to accept Him or even to reject Him.

On the last day, Our Lord will speak to those who have been saved, and they will reply: "When was it that we saw Thee hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and ministered unto Thee?" And Christ will answer that what they did unto the least of His brethren, they did unto Him. They may not have known it, but in keeping the commandment about loving one's neighbor they were to some extent keeping the first about love of God.

How much more should we who are invited to the King's table, who have our wounds bound in the confessional and, on the last journey of all, have our bodies purified for the Resurrection—how much more should we express our gratitude to the Lord by far more generous sacrifices than they? Africa is our problem; Korea is our problem; Latin America is our problem; India is our worry; Burma is our care. You cannot aid all of these, just as you cannot aid each of the mission societies in the Church. Nor can you always aid intelligently, because you do not know the needs of particular places and peoples.

Fortunately, there is one way to aid all and wisely, and that is by sending your sacrifices to the Holy Father through his Society for the Propagation of the Faith. He receives what you give; he distributes what you give. He is your father; he is the father of all the Missions. For just \$4 a week you can care for a leper in one of our 400 leper colonies. Think of it! Why not send that amount every month to make up for the leprosy of sin? If you do not think that you are that bad, then send it for me!

GOD LOVE YOU to W.X.C. for \$250 "Use it wherever our Holy Father feels it is most needed."... to C.S.N. for \$2 "I won first prize for my cookies at the country fair and would like you to use it to feed the hungry of the world."... to R.P.S. for \$20 "May God grant me the humility I so greatly need."... to Mrs. J.V.H. for \$5 "This offering is in thanksgiving for the happy delivery of our seventh little girl."

A new year... an old story: 2 billion souls wandering in darkness because they have not found the Light of Christ. This year, resolve to say a **WORLD MISSION ROSARY** each day for the conversion of the world. Send your request and an offering of \$2 to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, 366 Fifth Avenue, New York 1, New York, and these multi-colored beads will remind you to pray for the Godless peoples on five continents.

Cut out this coupon, 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 1, N.Y. or your Diocesan Director, the Rev. John F. Duffy, 50 Chestnut Street, Rochester 4, New York.