

# Sister Mary Vincent Edits Pearl-Poem

By SISTER MARGARET TERESA Nazareth College

The Pearl: A New Translation and Interpretation. by Sr. Mary Vincent Hillmann. College of St. Elizabeth Press, '61. 175 pp. \$5.00.

It is a pleasant experience to reach out one's hand toward a new volume on a truly oriented, he knows what attractive medieval mystery-poem, counis; he will live to please and find oneself led directly into the heart of the mystery.

So often the Pearl-poem of Chaucer's time has been hedged about with forbidding scholarship, has been presented amid such an aura of hesitancy and intimations of impossibility, that a reader's instinct is to bypass it. How can he "get anything out of it"?

That is where Sr. Mary Vincent Hillmann's enthusiasm has served us well. She has seen to it that the jacket allures, that the West Midlands text is cleared of problems and presented in live, readable type, that beside its every page there appears in the same type a rather close modern translation (Sister's own, of course), and that in the Notes at the end of the volume she has advanced with all possible strength her own interpretation: The poem tells of a grief-stricken hero who has lost his Pearl of material wealth, and meets in a dream of the other world his true Pearl, the Soul, learning from her the need of detachment and the true love of Jesus Christ.

## Canisius Gets U.S. Loan

Washington—(NC)—Canisius College, Buffalo, has been given a Federal loan of \$1,242,000 to combine with its own funds to finance construction of a college union building.

The loan was announced by the Federal Housing and Home Finance Agency whose Community Facilities Administration conducts the U.S. government's College Housing Loan Program.

The building at the Jesuit college, said the Federal agency, will provide dining facilities for students, activity rooms, a lounge, auditorium, stage, bookstore, locker area and a rifle range.

"But you have each of you then a mansion in the Heavenly City, you do not always wander thus in the woodland?" And the maiden bids him climb the height on his side of the stream as she climbs on hers, and shows him the City afar off, its glorious dwellings, its merry music, its processions. If he even sees his Pearl walking in that far-off pageant, since all things are possible in dreams.

When at last the Dreamer wakes, he finds himself able to

Everywhere in the poem are scattered the Maytime pleasures and the homely little details of Chaucer's dream-poems, the intimate phrases of heavenly discourse that mark the works of Dame Juliana and Walter Hilton, the fundamentally serious warnings of man's high goals that confront us in Piers Plowmen. This treasure of medieval poetry throws immediate light on a literary world that is very much our own, and we are grateful to Sister Mary Vincent for bringing it once more into view.

Many Rochester residents, pupils of Sister Mary Vincent or readers of her novel of a few years ago, "In The Jersey Hills," will want to possess this fine volume which Sister honored the Centennial of her order, the Sisters of Charity of St. Elizabeth's College.

## Catechism Topic For Lent Talks

Vatican City — (RNS) — Pope John XXIII at a solemn audience in St. Peter's Basilica attended by 41 cardinals and approximately 100 archbishops and bishops, stressed what he said was the vital role of all priests as teachers and preachers.

Also attending the audience were most of the parish priests of Rome, the Rome Lenten preachers, officials of the Roman Curia, representatives of many religious orders, seminarians, and thousands of pilgrims from many countries.

"When We speak of teaching," Pope John said, "we mean, first and above all, catechetical teaching, which is every priest's responsibility. In fact, catechism is the Church's constant preoccupation and it will be effective in proportion to the extent to which it is adapted to the needs of the individual."

The Pope said that "in order to achieve this, it will be necessary to study carefully not only the particular needs of different age groups, but to bear in mind also the different classes — the professional man in general, and, in particular, teachers, jurists, journalists, men of arts, science and the audio and visual technologists, as well as artisans, farm laborers and workers."

Pope John said a priest must not only be a catechist from the pulpit but "always and on each occasion in every talk or writing, in order to spread tirelessly the word of God in his daily contacts with souls."

He said that in regard to preaching, it was particularly important to "avoid anything vague, high-sounding or nebulous, and absolutely to exclude anything polemical."

Stressing the great need of a zeal for souls, the Pope called on priests to display "humility, charity and generosity." Priests above all, he said, must "cultivate the unity of hearts so that, avoiding the friction that might damage the family of the faithful, he may build them up in charity."

As you pray the multicolored WORLD MISSION ROSARY, remember that the while decade is offered for the Holy Father. Then remember that the Vicar of Christ has said that The Society for the Propagation of the Faith must be "first and principally aided." Send your request and an offering of \$2, and we will send you this WORLD MISSION ROSARY blessed by Bishop Sheen.

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 18, N.Y., or your Diocesan Director, Rev. John F. Duffy, 50 Chestnut Street, Rochester 4, New York.



## Strength of Faith

Tucson — (RNS) — Even though the Chapel of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Tucson, Ariz., was destroyed by fire, these children continue to pray before its charred altar in preparation for Communion. The chapel is a mission of Santa Cruz church in Tucson. The parish pastor, Father Patrick Perjes, O.C.D., said catechism classes would continue elsewhere for children in the mission area until a new chapel can be built.

## Solemn Requiem Offered For Sr. Monica In Avon

Parishioners, young and old, of St. Agnes Church, Avon, mourned the death of Sister Monica, who had taught in their school for 46 years. Sister's funeral was held in St. Agnes Church last Monday, Feb. 26.

Sister Monica died Feb. 23, 1962. Very Rev. Msgr. Patrick Flynn celebrated the Solemn Requiem Mass, assisted by Rev. Edward Shannon, dean, and Rev. Richard Mattie, subdeacon.

AUXILIARY BISHOP CASEY was present in the sanctuary and gave the blessing at the close of the Mass. Also present were Rev. George Klob, Rev. Albert Schnacky, Rev. William Shifferli and Rev. Albert Shannon School children and parishioners crowded the church to pay tribute to Sister.

Final blessing at the grave in Holy Sepulcher Cemetery was given by Flynn, assisted by Rt. Rev. Msgr. Joseph Gefell, Father Klob, Father Albert Schnacky and Father Charles J. McCarthy.

Sister Monica was born in Java Center and entered the Sisters of Saint Joseph in 1918. Her only assignment was in Avon, where she taught first and second grades until two days before her death.

Surviving are three sisters, Mrs. Earl Doran, Mrs. Fred Stone and Mrs. William Corcoran, also several nieces and nephews.

## CDA Theme

Houston — (NC) — The Catholic Daughters of America have chosen "Christian Unity" for the theme of their 29th national biennial convention, to be held in the Shirley Savoy Hotel, Denver, Colo., July 8 to 13.

## Mother, Dad and 12 Children

# Missionary Family

Lebanon, Ky. — (NC) — "WE'VE BEEN blessed so much, we figure we owe something back," said James Crane, a building contractor.

The family, scheduled to leave in June, will be furnished shelter at the Copper Valley Mission in southeast Alaska, but will serve without pay and have to purchase all their food and clothing.

Why are they exchanging comfort for hardship?

for my recovery, and the fact that we have such a lovely group of youngsters and two boys aspiring for the Benedictine brotherhood at St. Meinrad (Seminary), Indiana."

The Cranes will sell their farm and furniture, and will leave here with a pickup truck, a car, and a 45-foot house trailer pulled by a semitractor.

Mr. and Mrs. Crane have no romantic illusions about life in Alaska. The entire family went to Alaska on a vacation in 1959 and they know the conditions under which they will have to live.

At Copper Valley they will live in an abandoned chapel, about three miles from the mission, conducted by Jesuits. Their nearest water supply will be three miles away.

They are committed to a two-year stay in Alaska. Mrs. Crane said that her husband and the oldest son will help with church building projects while she and the other children will try by example to impress Indians and Eskimos with the Christian family way of life.

Mrs. Crane said she started writing two years ago to Bishop Francis D. Gleeson, S.J., Vicar Apostolic of Alaska, about the family's desire to serve as lay missionaries in Alaska.

## Negro, Indian Missions Gain

Washington — (NC) — A total of 97,887 Negro pupils attended American Catholic mission and parish schools in 1961, a five per cent increase over the enrollment in 1960, it was disclosed in the 75th annual report of the Commission for Catholic Missions Among the Colored People and the Indians.

This total "is a new high mark," said the report, released here by Father John B. Tenny, S.S., secretary of the commission.

(A collection to aid the Negro and Indian missions will be taken in all churches of the Rochester Diocese Sunday, March 11.)

The section of the report dealing with Indians states that last year 9,048 Catholic Indian children from some 175 missions attended 54 schools scattered over some 80 Indian reservations in 39 dioceses including Alaska.

The report says that there are 349 Catholic schools in the U.S. for Negro children, and these are staffed by more than 2,000 Religious and 600 lay teachers.

THE REPORT also gives the following statistics:

— There are now 664,230 Negro Catholics in 63 U.S. Sees.

— Nine per cent of the converts to the Church in this country in 1961 were Negroes (12,008).

— More Negro than white non-Catholic parents find openings for their children in Catholic schools.

— Three out of every four Negro missions and parishes have their own schools.

— 770 priests, attached to 507 missions, are engaged exclusively in the apostolate to the Negroes.

The reports notes that in 1886 only 21 priests were assigned to minister exclusively to Negro Catholics.

"In 1961," the report continues, "Catholic Negroes were 35 per cent of the Negro population of 19 million, whereas in 1886 they were 17 per cent of seven million."

## Press Meet In Boston

New York — (NC) — Cardinal Cushing of Boston will deliver the keynote address and welcome delegates to the 52nd annual convention of the Catholic Press Association from May 15 to 18, 1962, in Boston.

James A. Doyle, CPA executive secretary, said the Cardinal will make his address at the convention's annual luncheon May 16, in the Statler Hilton Hotel. The Cardinal will also officiate at the opening of the convention's annual exhibition of supplies and services.

In connection with the convention, Doyle said, the CPA will also conduct the first Catholic fundraising conference — an all-day work session with a luncheon on May 15 devoted to an examination of the philosophy, methods and purposes of fund raising by Catholic organizations and publications.

## Riots Blamed On Leftist

Georgetown — (NC) — Blame for the recent riots and fires in the heart of British Guiana's capital city must fall upon the Jagan left wing government, the newspaper of the Georgetown archdiocese has stated.

The Catholic Standard observed that the violence was triggered by a government edict against popular demonstrations, which at first were orderly.

The paper said: "Dr. Jagan's reaction shows that he has not yet realized that in a democracy a government cannot just ignore and override the wishes of a substantial number of the people. There is no hope of peace and prosperity until he learns that."

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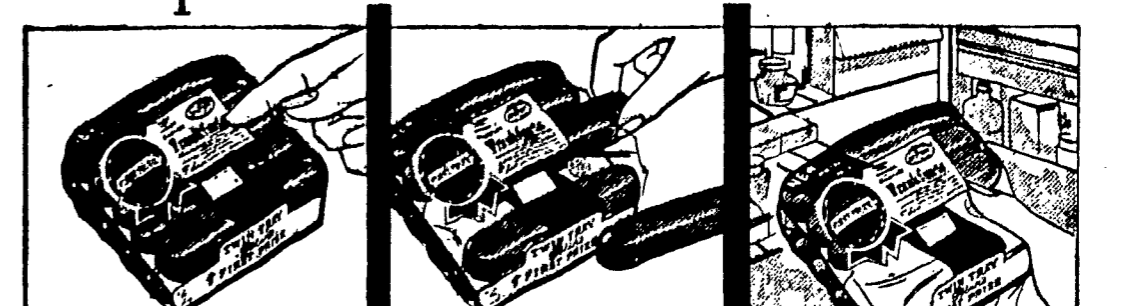
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