

Centenary of Unity Octave Founder

Garrison — (RNS) — The 1962 observance of the Chair of Unity Octave, Jan. 18-25, during which Catholics around the world offer special prayers for Christian unity will mark the 100th anniversary of the birth of the Octave's founder.

He was Father Paul James Francis, S.A., who started the Octave in 1908 at Graymoor, N.Y., while he was an Episcopal minister. In 1909 he entered the Catholic Church with a small band of followers known as the Society of the Atonement and was ordained a priest a year later by John Cardinal Farley, Archbishop of New York.

The Franciscan Friars of the Atonement have observed the Octave since its beginning and have promoted it around the world through literature and the mass communications media.

Since 1927 the Octave has been observed in every diocese of the U.S. and is marked in more than 30 countries on every continent. The Octave begins each year on the Feast of the Chair of St. Peter in Rome and closes on the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul.

During the eight-day period Catholics pray at special Masses, devotions and other services for the conversion of lapsed Catholics and those outside the Catholic Church.

Father Francis was born at Millington, Md., on Jan. 16, 1863 — two days before the Octave starts annually. Youngest of four children, he became an Episcopal clergyman, like his father, and served in Maryland, New York and Nebraska before coming to Graymoor in 1899.

The Society of the Atonement, which he started as an Episcopalian, was committed to work and prayer for Christian unity in 1900, eight years before the establishment of the week-long Octave.

To promote the unity of Christendom, Father Francis founded a number of publications, including the monthly magazine *The Lamp*, still published by the Franciscan Friars, and *The Candle*, now published by the Sisters of the Atonement.

He also started two other publications no longer published: *Rose Leaves* and *The Antidote*. Father Francis was a co-founder of the Catholic Near East Welfare Association and assisted missionaries in all parts of the world through the Union-That-Nothing-Is-Lost, which he started at Graymoor in 1904.

Also devoted to the poor and homeless, the priest began the famous St. Christopher's Inn at Graymoor to help the unemployed. Staffed by Franciscan Friars this project resulted in the sponsor-

ship of the Ave Maria Hour, a radio program featuring the lives of the saints.

Another aspect of Father Francis' work was his devotion to the Virgin Mary as the patroness of Christian unity. To foster this devotion he started the Rosary League of Our Lady of the Atonement in 1901, now a Catholic organization. The title of Our Lady of the Atonement was given to the Virgin Mary by Father Francis with the approval of the Holy See.

After striving for Christian unity for about 40 years, Father Francis died at Graymoor in 1940.

During the Octave, Catholics pray for a different intention daily. These are:

Jan. 18—The union of all

Christians in the one true faith and in the Church.

Jan. 19 — The return of separated Eastern Christians to communion with the Holy See.

Jan. 20 — The reconciliation of Anglicans with the Holy See.

Jan. 21 — The reconciliation of European Protestants with the Holy See.

Jan. 22 — That American Christians become one in union with the Chair of Peter.

Jan. 23 — The restoration of lapsed Catholics to the sacramental life of the Church.

Jan. 24 — That the Jewish people come into their inheritance in Jesus Christ.



Museum Acquires Madonna

Boston—(RNS)—Perry Rathbone (left), director of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, and Dr. Hanns Swarzenski, curator of the Museum's department of decorative arts, discuss the *Madonna of Victory*, an 18th century statue in German faience, a term for enameled earthenware. The 46-inch statue has been given a place of prominence in the museum near the main staircase. Director Rathbone termed it "the most important creation of German faience sculpture in existence." Executed in 1771 by John Martin Mutschele, the statue came to the museum from the collection of Igo Levi of Lausanne, Switzerland. The museum has not disclosed the price it paid for the statue.

Jan. 25 — The missionary extension of Christ's Kingdom throughout the world.

The Catholic Octave coincides with the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity sponsored during the same week by the World Council of Churches' Commission on Faith and Order. The WCC observance emphasizes that unity is to be accomplished "according to the will of Christ, in His way, in His time."

Burma Pledges Faith Freedom

By FATHER PATRICK O'CONNOR

Society of St. Columban

Rangoon — (NC) — A "socialist program," in which everyone's right to profess and practice his religion is recognized, has been announced for Burma by Gen. Ne Win's government.

Gen. Ne Win and other high-ranking members of the Defense Services first took over the government in November, 1958, and gave it back to civilian political leaders in February, 1960. Last March 2, Gen. Ne Win, in a bloodless coup, took control of the government again. The ruling body now is of the Revolutionary Council of the Union of Burma. It is a military government with Gen. Ne Win presiding.

LAST SUMMER the council launched the Burma Socialist Program party, which it intends to carry the leadership in Burma's future politics. It is to be "the party of the entire nation." It is to be reorganized later to operate "on the principle of democratic centralization" but not parliamentary democracy.

Already in April the Revolutionary Council had announced that it was "resolved to march unwaveringly and arm-in-arm with the people of the Union of Burma towards the goal of socialism," it declared. "Having learnt from contemporary history the evils of deviation towards right or left, the council will with vigilance avoid any such deviation."

New Churches Near Billion

Washington — (RNS)—New church construction during September equaled the record for the month established a year ago as \$91,000,000 worth of new building was put in place, the Census Bureau reported here.

September construction exceeded the August figure by \$1,000,000 and July's by \$5,000,000. It brought total construction for the first nine months of 1962 to \$728,000,000, indicating that a million-dollar year is within reach.

Road Back from Skid Row

Portland, Ore. — (NC) —return to self-respect and purpose goes on, toward a possible capacity of 60. On the farm, the men live and work together relatively unsupervised, under the general direction of farm manager Wayne Arnstead, a former truck driver.

Forty minutes from Portland, the farm is owned and operated by Blanchet House of Hospitality, which for 10 years has given free meals, lodging and other necessities to homeless men on Skid Row, as an attempt to dig deeper into the problems of rehabilitation. It is named for Portland's first Ordinary, Archbishop Francis N. Blanchet.

Al Riley, director of Blanchet House, explained: "It has always been painfully clear that feeding men three times a day at the house was simply covering up the real problem. For a few, we were able to find steady jobs and we can accommodate 55 workers at the house itself, another 14 at the Blanchet Center — a nearby transition residence where men can live in a group while they look for work and get back on their feet."

"But many men who need help — and want help desperately — remain trapped in the same vicious circle unless they can get completely away from Skid Row environment. To provide this kind of refuge — a place where men can contribute to their own support by working and living in a healthy atmosphere — we borrowed money and bought the farm early this year."

The farm, comprising 60 acres of fruit trees, now shelters 21 men in three previously existing buildings. Construction is under way on a 35-resident dormitory, and Riley said he hopes to see this added to as

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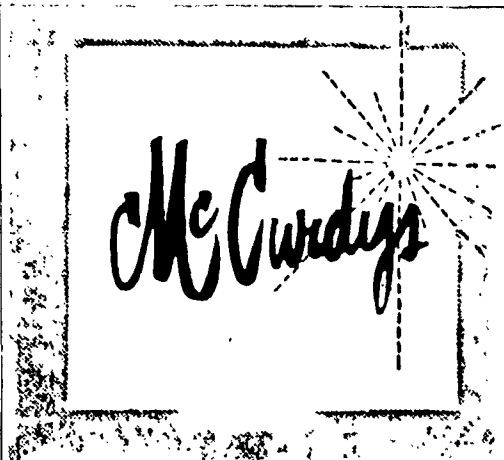
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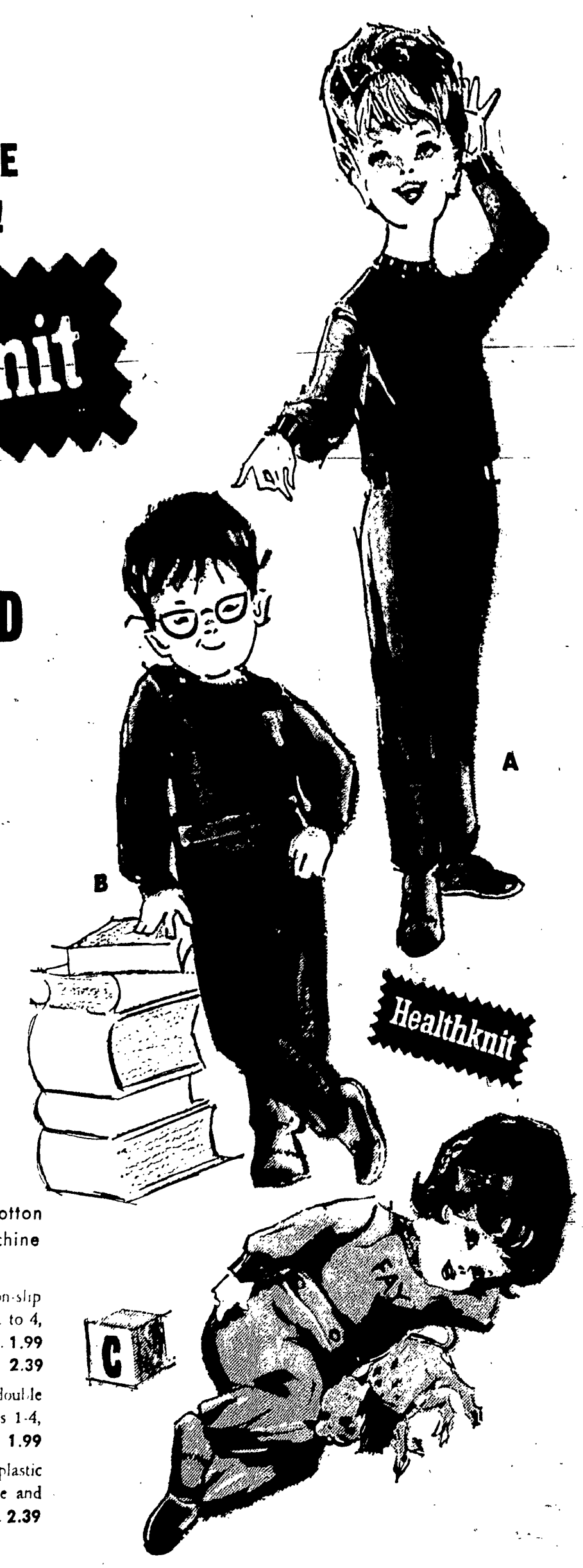
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