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GOD LOVE YOU!
By MOST REV. FULTON J. SHEEN

How many ever read the Book of the Apocalypse, the last book of the Bible? St. John tells us that they who read it are blessed. Take but one verse in which John describes the throne of God:

"Before this throne in my vision, the dead must come, great and little alike; and the books were opened. Another book too was opened, the book of life. And the dead were judged by their deeds, as the books recorded them." (Apocalypse 20:12)

But what will these books be? For one thing, they will be the unerring memory of God. Nothing is forgotten by Him; not one passing thought eludes His notice or escapes His mind. The books will also be our own memory, for nothing that we have ever done is without a registry on our souls. A word, a look, a sound or a song may recall deeds and thoughts of a generation past, making the whole of our lives rush back in an instant. Then it is that we see ourselves with horror or joy.

Each day we are writing our judgment through our deeds. Character can be read now. It comes out of the eyes, the look and tone of the voice, in the open hands, the clenched fist and the grossness of the body. And it is not the evil alone that is recorded; it is the good. Not even the least work done for God and His Church will be forgotten.

Start the new year by straightening out your accounts. If you have failed, make amends. If you have not practiced your Faith, give alms to the Holy Father that he may send a missionary to give Faith to a pagan. If you have not supported the works of the Church, build a church in Africa or Asia. Someday the books will be opened. Friends and flatterers can do nothing for you then, for your name is written on those books. May it be inscribed in the Book of Life that you manifested your love of the Crucified Savior by denying yourself to give His Faith to others in mission lands!

GOD LOVE YOU to Mrs. B.Y. for \$10 "To thank St. Jude for favors received. I want the Holy Father to have this for his Missions." . . . to Mrs. L.B. for \$5 "I made this money selling homemade bread, eggs and a few chickens. This is a small way to help feed God's poor." . . . to a Catholic Daughters group for \$23 "Last month we held a 'car wash' to help raise money for the Missions. There are now lots of sparkling cars—may there be even more sparkling souls!" . . . to Mr. and Mrs. G.F. for \$40 "We decided not to give each other presents this year so that someone in the Missions could have the greatest gift—the Faith" . . . to K.R.H. for \$25 "I am giving my Christmas bonus to the Missions in hopes it will inspire others to do the same."

A new year . . . an old story. 2 billion souls, wandering in darkness because they have not found the Light of Christ. This coming 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 of the world.

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

**Prelate Backs
Leftist Victor**

Santo Domingo — (RNS) — Archbishop Octavio Antonio Beras of Santo Domingo appealed here for national unity after Juan Bosch, a moderate leftist candidate, won the country's first free election in 38 years.

In a special message, the prelate called upon defeated candidates to "set aside sterile partisan battle to collaborate in the achievement of the people's welfare."

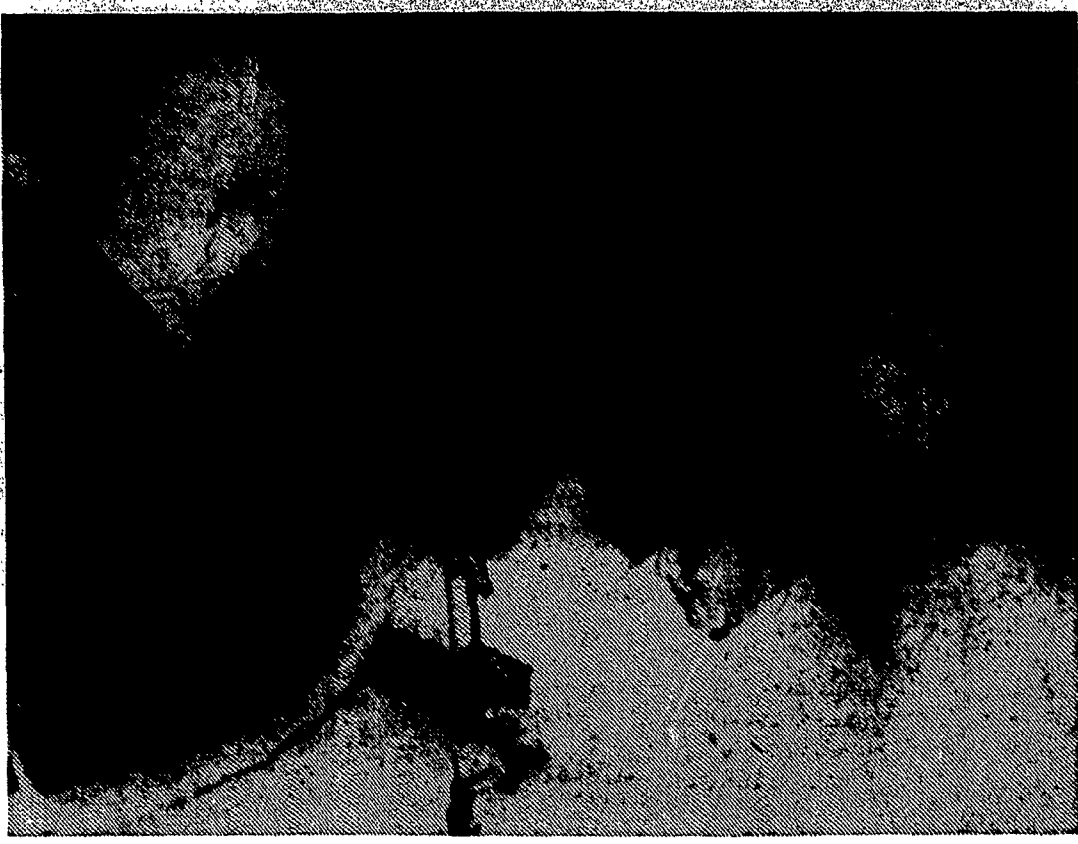
Vatican City — (RNS) — Pope John XXIII, in his fifth annual Christmas message to the world, called again for peace and mutual understanding among nations.

At the same time, in a stirring appeal for Christian unity and brotherhood, he stressed the special responsibility of individual Catholics to work and pray that "all may be one" in Christ.

In speaking of peace, the 81-year-old pontiff gave implicit praise to President Kennedy and Soviet Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev for their handling of the recent Cuban crisis. This came when he recalled his broadcast of last October in which he urged rulers to do all in their power to preserve peace and to continue to negotiate toward this end.

"The recollection of this appeal," Pope John said, "is all the more joyful for us . . . because of the clear sign of deep understanding which shows that the words were not wasted but touched minds and hearts, and are serving to open up new prospects of brotherly trust and to hold out hopes of true social and international peace. On the subject of these happy developments, in national and international affairs, seen simply as the beginning of a new chapter in the history of the modern world, it is most pleasing to observe the part played by our radio message."

Pre-recorded in his private library, the Pope's message, markedly optimistic in tone, was broadcast by Vatican Radio and many national networks. Noteworthy was the fact that Tass, official Soviet news agency, carried a 150-word summary, underlining the passages speaking of the need for negotiating and working for peace. Polish and Hungarian radio stations and newspapers also carried summaries of the message, meaning



Better Health for Christmas

Vatican City — (RNS) — Several children present the bread and wine for Pope John XXIII's Midnight Mass at Christmas. In a jovial mood, the pontiff held two separate audiences with Church hierarchy and with the Vatican diplomatic corps, delivering his annual Christmas message before the latter. Showing signs of recovery from his recent illness, he also appeared at the window of his Vatican apartment to wish crowds in the square a Merry Christmas.

while voicing satisfaction over the Pope's work for peace.

"Of all the blessings that life and history have to offer for individuals and families and nations, truly the most precious and important is peace," the Pope said. "The existence of peace and the zeal to preserve it are the assurance of the world's tranquility."

"But a necessary condition of peace is the goodwill of each

and everyone. Where this is lacking, it is vain to hope for happiness and blessing. Let peace then be our objective at all times; let us aim at creating peace around us so that it may spread throughout the entire world; let us shield it from all that could harm it and take care not to endanger it by anything that could disrupt or compromise it."

The Pope stressed that "certainly no solemnity of the Church is better suited to characterize the Council than the Birth of Christ, which was announced in heavenly glory and in the joy of the brotherhood of all men."

Continuing to speak specifically of Christian unity, the pontiff told the bishops, clergy and faithful that "we must put this unity into effect."

"It rests a serious obligation on each one's conscience," he said. "Catholics should dedicate themselves anew to the task of establishing an abiding love for unity. On the day of Judgment, each one will be asked not whether he achieved unity, but whether he prayed and worked and suffered for it; whether he enforced a wise and prudent discipline, patient and farseeing, and whether he was responsive to the impulses of charity."

"One result of the Council," he said, "has been the spontaneous revelation, almost unexpected by most people, of the

**Pope Stresses
Church Renewal**

Vatican City — (RNS) — Pope John XXIII, in a special Christmas audience for the cardinals and prelates of the Roman Curia, stressed that the major goal of the Second Vatican Council is the "general and more ardent renewal of the life of the Church and a new and vigorous radiation of the Gospel throughout the entire world."

The pontiff greeted his visitors in the Clementine Hall of the Vatican Palace before another Christmas audience to the diplomatic corps accredited to the Holy See. He later appeared at the window of his private apartment to wish the crowds gathered below a "Merry Christmas, a good holy day, and courage." He seemed to be enjoying renewed vigor and health following his recent serious illness.

He said to the Curia prelates the "renewed pastoral movement" to which the Council is dedicated is "the constant anxiety of our heart. This is the object of the Ecumenical Council until such times as our contemporaries have been made ever more aware of the maternal action of the Church for the spiritual and also the material elevation of humanity as a whole."

The Pope went on to quote a passage from his address opening the Vatican Council on Oct. 11. "The salient point of this Council," the passage read, "is not . . . a discussion of one article or another of the fundamental doctrine of the Church which has repeatedly been taught by the Fathers and by ancient and modern theologians, and which is presumed to be well-known and familiar to all."

Pope John concluded by saying that "it is a great satisfaction, and gives daily encouragement, to know ourselves to be supported by the minds and energy of . . . the Sacred College of Cardinals, which has demonstrated to us an expression of loving and warm correspondence with our desires."

Ancient Shrine

Cambridge — (RNS) — Archaeologists believe they have uncovered the sacred site where in the 10th century B.C. the patriarchs Abraham and Jacob worshipped, Harvard University reported here. It said the shrine — found at the site of the ancient biblical city of Shechem — also was the place where Joshua rallied the tribes of Israel.

COURIER
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**Orthodox Prelate Greets
Bishops at Jerusalem**

Jerusalem — (RNS) — Greek Orthodox Patriarch Benedictos of Jerusalem met here with Roman Catholic bishops touring the Holy Land at the close of the Second Vatican Council's first session.

Patriarch Benedictos received the visiting prelates at his residence near the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Old Jerusalem. They discussed problems related to the Holy Land and the application of Christianity to contemporary life.

"The main mission of religion now is to make every possible effort to strengthen love between peoples and tranquility in all parts of the world," the Greek Orthodox prelate said.

Observers considered the meeting of the patriarch with

the Catholic bishops significant because he had opposed sending Orthodox delegate-observers to the Vatican Council. (Among the Eastern Orthodox, only the Russian Patriarchate sent observers to the Council.)

One hundred and forty Catholic bishops, returning to their sees at the end of the Council's first session, spent 10 days in the Holy Land. They traveled in two groups. Their visit to Patriarch Benedictos came just before their departure for home.

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