



Leo Dhaenens



Miss Marian Valenza

## Evening Mass at Infirmary

Story and Photos by  
Father Henry Atwell

Mass at Monroe County Home and Infirmary has all the solemnity of a cathedral ceremony — choir, incense, spotless vestments, statues, religious paintings, sermon.

The pews, however, are different — wheelchairs and beds with restraining bars.

Every first Monday of the

month, chaplain Father Bruce Ammering offers Mass at 7:30 p.m. Staff workers and volunteers from the Legion of Mary and Third Order of St. Francis begin at about 6:30 to bring patients from their rooms and ward to the Home's spacious auditorium.

The scene resembles the procession of the sick at the famed shrine of our Lady in Lourdes, France.

While they wait for the others to arrive, the patients who are first in the hall spend their hour saying their Rosary or other devotions.

Miss Frances Pavone — 23 of

her 48 years on earth have been spent as a victim of multiple sclerosis, sixteen years as a patient at the Infirmary on East Henrietta Rd. The monthly evening Mass is "ever so much appreciated," she said. Miss Pavone is from the Church of the Annunciation parish, Rochester.

Leo Dhaenens, from St. Thom-

More parish, Brighton, a resident of the Home, gets to Father Ammering's early Sunday Mass but likes the evening Mass as a chance "to say some extra prayers."

Mrs. Carrie Cole, a parishioner of St. Thomas the Apostle Church, reported about the evening Mass, "We love it. I haven't missed one yet." Confined to a wheel chair, she nonetheless helps draw up the list of patients who are Catholics who want to attend the Mass.

Speechless and bed-ridden by a stroke two years ago, Mrs. Marie Mambrelli from Holy Family Church kissed her fingertips to wave a greeting. Her eyes sparkled her appreciation for the opportunity of attending Mass.

A mother of four children, Mrs. Leo Bernardi of St. John's parish in Spencerport is another victim of multiple sclerosis. Her cross of eight years seemed a bit lighter as she talked from her bed about her husband and youngsters who range in age from eight to sixteen.

"It's wonderful," was Miss Marian Valenza's comment about the Mass. Three years in braces and unable to get about

except in a wheel chair, she manages to attend Father Ammering's morning Masses once or twice a week as well as Lenten devotions Wednesday and Friday evenings.

Choirs from various parishes volunteer to sing at Mass and devotions, Father Ammering explained. Last Monday it was the choir from St. Francis Xavier Church.

Nazareth Academy chaplain Father Charles Connell gave

the sermon. He said there are two roads to heaven—"the way of innocence and the way of the cross."

Only the tiniest children can travel the first way—all others must bear the cross God gave for you."

Father Ammering, six years chaplain at the Monroe County Home and Infirmary, tall, ascetic, offers his Mass with evident devotion — and his spirit is caught up by his 150 "pa-

trishioners" at the Mass. Many received Communion. Since they cannot come to the altar, Father Ammering brings the comforting skytour to them as they wait in prayer in their wheel chairs and beds.

Over the altar is a familiar painting of the Last Supper and the Lord's words here are clear: "If any man will be my disciple, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."

Do this in memory of Me



Father Bruce Ammering gives Holy Communion at Infirmary Mass

## GOD LOVE YOU!

By MOST REV. FULTON J. SHEEN

There was a leper who lived in one of our larger cities. For years the disease had eaten nerves in his hand and feet and scared his face. Doctors, not familiar with the disease, did not discover it until it had so ravaged him that boys made fun of him in the streets and on subways, and women said: "He will soon be gone. You will not have to look at that ugly face much longer."

A priest heard about him, finding him the very day he contemplated suicide. With charity and frankness he told him: "You will never find anyone to love you in this world except those who love Our Lord." As the disease was no longer communicative, the priest rented an apartment for him and helped him back on his feet. But more important, he began instructing him in the Faith over a period of two years. It took patience and much charity to overcome the bitterness in his heart.

A few weeks before his First Communion, the leper brought three young married women, all ex-fashion models, to the priest. One of them had heard about our friend while making a picture about leprosy in Africa. Each of these women, (none of them Catholic) took turns bringing him to their home on weekends. The priest said to them: "I know I love him because he is Christ to me, the Christ who seemed like a leper on the Cross. I love him because he is a living crucifix, not a plastic one, and every time he comes to my house, he comes as the ambassador of the poor of the world. But tell me, why do you bear him such charity?" They answered: "For the same reason! Christ blesses our homes when he enters."

If only we could inspire some of you rich people, who give vast sums of money to those who are already rich, to give to the poor. Find "Living Crucifixes." There are millions of them in Africa, Asia and Latin America! Christ is in the poor just because they are poor. He is in the rich not because they are rich, but only because they are virtuous! There is a world of difference between the two! Do not waste your money on plastic crucifixes, synthetic Christs. The rich can thank you now, but as Our Lord said: "You have already had your reward." The poor cannot thank you. The Holy Father never tells you whom he helps when you aid him through his Society for the Propagation of the Faith. Therefore, the Lord must thank you—and His thanks is heaven!

GOD LOVE YOU to Mrs. M.V. for \$20 "For Christ's poor" ... to S.F. for \$3 "I love this money by walking instead of taking a bus" ... to a Waitress for her Tuesday tips each week "In honor of St. Anne, my patron saint" ... to Mrs. R.E.R. for \$5 "I promised this to the Missions in St. Anthony's name for a favor granted."

The ten letters of GOD LOVE YOU spell out a decade of the rosary as they encircle the medal originated by Bishop Sheen to honor the Madonna of the World. With your request and corresponding offering you may order a GOD LOVE YOU medal in any of the following styles:

- \$2 small sterling silver
- \$3 small 10k gold filled
- \$5 large sterling silver
- \$10 large 10k gold filled

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, N.Y. 10001, or your Diocesan Director, Rev. John F. Duffy, 50 Chestnut Street, Rochester, New York 14604.

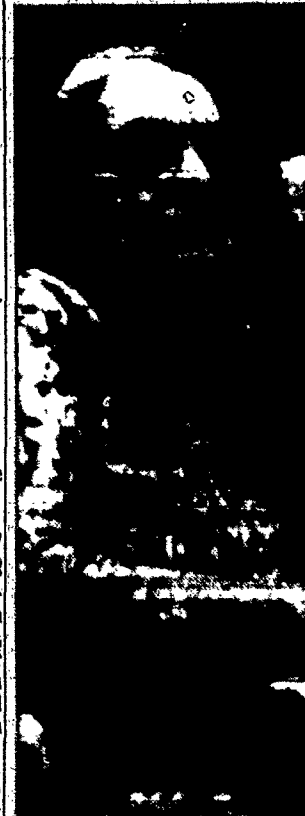
## Father Kolping, Workers' Friend, Anniversary

Berlin—(RNS)—Special medals were coined by the state in Stuttgart and Karlsruhe, West Germany, to commemorate the 150th birthday of Father Adolf Kolping, a 19th century priest whose beatification cause is being considered at the Vatican.

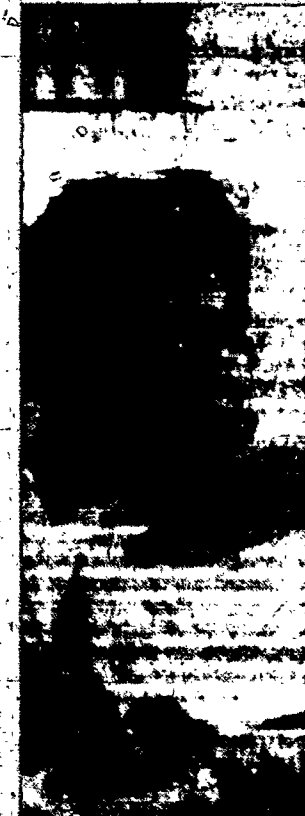
The medals, coined in gold and silver, depict the famous priest on one side. On the other side is a well-known quotation from Father Kolping: "Whoever wants to win men must pledge his heart as pawn." Prof. Albert Holl, famous West-

German artist, designed the medals. Roman Catholics in Germany and elsewhere are celebrating the 150th birthday of the famous social leader. Born in 1813 at Kerper, near Cologne, the son of a shepherd, Father Kolping learned the trade of a shoemaker, but later studied theology and was consecrated a priest in 1845.

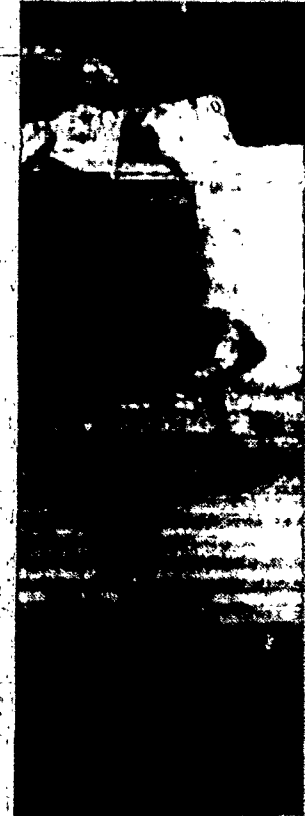
On May 6, 1849, he founded the Catholic Journeymen's Association in Elberfeld with an initial membership of seven.



Mrs. Carrie Cole



Mrs. Marie Mambrelli



Mrs. Leo Bernardi



Miss Frances Pavone

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