God's World

Word of God

By REV. LEO J. TRESE

Would it be too personal a question to ask, "How long is it since you have opened a copy of the Bible for the purpose of reading it?"

Many of us honor the Bible more by lip service than by devout use. In thousands of Catholic homes there reposes a large "Family Bible" which is a tribute to the pulling power of an advertisement or the skill of a door-to-door salesman. The volume is much too bulky to hold comfortably in one's hands; and so it lies in its appointed place, respected but unused. A much more credible witness to our biblical devotion would be a Bible of normal book size, with covers worn and pages well thumbed.

It is unfortunate that the Bible is so widely neglected by Catholics. It is the primary source of our knowledge of God and of our Lord Jesus Christ. But it is much more than a mere book of knowledge. It is a point of actual personal contact with God and with Christ. The ancient Fathers of the Church have compared the holy Scriptures with the Incarnation. By the Incarnation, they point out, the Word of God was enshrined in human flesh. In the Bible the Word of God has been enshrined in written words.

SPIRITUAL WRITERS also have compared Bible reading to Holy Communion. In Holy Communion we unite ourselves to the Word of God by the physical act of eating His Body. In reading the Bible, we unite ourselves to the Word of God by taking Him spiritually into our mind and heart. We can be sure, too that Jesus will not fail to confer grace upon one who comes to Him, with love, where He has enveloped Himself in the written word.

When we read the Bible with faith and with reverence, we are directly "tuned in" on God. We are in an intimate personal relationship with Him. He illumines our understanding and speaks to us through the words which we are reading. For each of us who reads in a spirit of reverent faith, the Bible is an individual letter from heaven.

We must never forget that God is the real author of the Bible. Whatever appears in the holy book is there because God wants it there. Unseen and unfelt by the human writers, God caused them to put down the events and the truths which God wished recorded.

God's revelation of Himself was limited, of course, by the particular talents of His human agents and by the literary styles and modes of expression of the various eras in which the Bible was written. That is why, in the Bible, sublime truths are not always sublimely expressed. But, however pedestrian or obscure the verbal structure, it always is God Who speaks.

The whole Bible is the revelation of God through His Son, the Word. The Old Testament is a preparatory revelation, looking forward to God's final and definitive manifestation of Himself as Jesus. The New Testament is the actualization of all that the Old Testament foreshadowed.

In reading the Bible, most persons find it easier to begin with the New Testament, especially the Gospels. It is here that we most quickly and intimately establish communion with Jesus. When we do turn to the Old Testament, we find it more intelligible because of the light cast upon it by the New.

For the beginner, even the New Testament can seem, in parts, difficult and obscure. For this reason the reader will find of great help the New Testament Reading Guides, published by the Liturgical Press of Collegeville, Minnesota. These are booklets which contain, with explanatory commentary, one or more of the books of the New Testament.

Similarly helpful, for the Old Testament, is the Pamphlet Bible Series published by the Paulist Press of New York. Each pamphlet contains a book of the Old Testament, preceded by very helpful explanatory notes.

Even without such aids, we cannot read the Bible without spiritual profit, provided we read with prayerful attentiveness to God's voice. After God has gone to so much trouble, humanly speaking, to communicate with us, it will be a shame if we nullify His efforts by our neglect.

Boston Irish In Budapest?

By ELMER VON FELDT

Budapest — (NC) — The Soviet-built Ilyushin 18 Malev Hungarian national airlines purred confidently as it soared through the clouds after takeoff from Vienna enroute to the Hungarian capital.

I asked the young school girl in typical Hungarian dress next to me whether she spoke either German or English.

"A little English," she replied with an accent.

She explained she had not learned English in her native Budapest where Russian is the compulsory second language in school. She learned English, she explained, during her two-month visit to Montreal where she stayed with an aunt and a cousin during her summer vacation. She was on her way back home to continue her schooling.

I expressed regret that I could not speak her tongue and she volunteered to teach me a few essential Magyar words.

She painstakingly wrote such words as "hello," "goodbye," "please," and "thanks" in English and Hungarian on a card for me.

We completed the lesson in the proper pronunciation of the words shortly before the plane landed.

I thanked her with my newly found word "Koszonom" (thank you), and said "Viszont Latashra" (goodbye).

"But what is your name?" she asked me. I gave her my card.

"I'd like to have your name, too," I said. "Please write it on the back of my card."

The Hungarian lass wrote: "Mary Kenedi."

Top Anglers Listed In Wehle Contest

The judges of the Louis A. Wehle Fishing Contest released the names of winners of the August segment this week and commented upon the increasing interest of teen-agers in the sport. This was shown by the large number of entries from youngsters under twenty and the number of prize winners among them.

In the Rock Bass division for instance, nineteen year old Eugene Carr, 40 Proenix St., Canandaigua, won first prize with a 2 lb., 7 oz., "rockie," followed by a three-way tie at one pound each, from entries by 15 year old Robert Cooper of Belcsville, 13 year old Joseph Tolan of Geneva, and 9 year old Frank Woodward of Cape Vincent.

In the Perch class, 10 year old Miss Ellen Bleaking of Elmira won second place, while 15 year old Larry Maust of Wolcott won third. Top prize went to James Sullivan, 207 Morgan Rd., Syracuse for his 1 lb. 8 oz. entry.

Area winners in August included: Wall eye Pike—Frank C. Judge, 349 Harwick Rd., Rochester; Pickerel: Edward Bursek, 178 Willowbrook Rd., Rochester; Brown Trout: Bert Foos, 4770 E. River Rd., West Henrietta, and Salvatore F. Brando, 14 Maya Ave., Hornell; Rainbow Trout: C. C. Carter, 402 Garson Ave., Rochester.

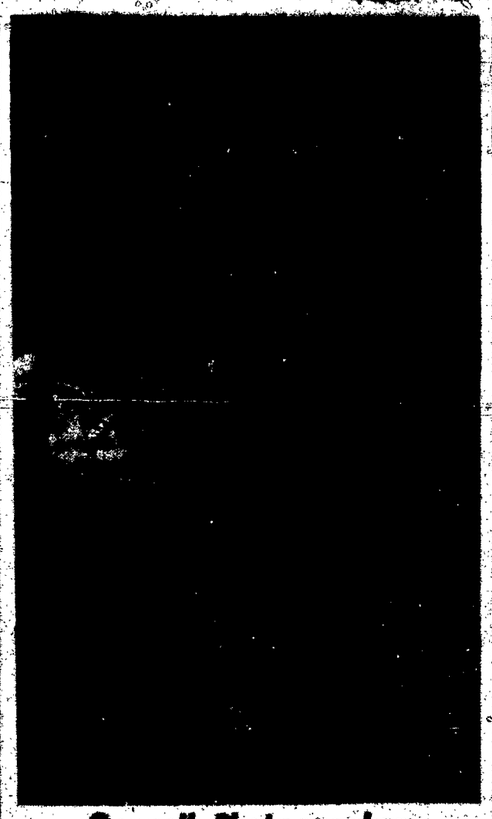
25 Years Ago

(From the files of Catholic Courier, Sept. 28, 1939)

A diocesan-wide Mission Novena under auspices of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith was announced by Rev. John S. Randall, diocesan director. Speakers for a public novena at Sacred Heart Pro-Cathedral listed were Archbishop Lewis Mathias and Monsignor Thomas Pothacamury of Madras, India; Fathers James Gillis, C.S.P. and Joseph Cassidy, M.M.

Bishop Kearney told 10,000 persons at Blessing of Graves in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery of their deep responsibility in praying constantly for the suffering souls in Purgatory.

Toronto, Ont. considered headquarters of Communist activities in Canada, was turning sharply against Communism following Canada's entry in the war and Soviet invasion of Poland.



Council Photographer

Vatican City — (RNS) — A bishop gets a good shot of proceedings at the opening of the Vatican Council's third session — unaware that he, too, is being photographed.

'Chill' Reported In Ecumenics

Notre Dame — (RNS) — A Catholic magazine said here that "there seems to be no point in denying that there was a little chill in the ecumenical spirit as the third session of Vatican II began."

Ave Maria, national weekly published by the Holy Cross Fathers, in an editorial, "Suddenly, A Chill," noted a generally unfavorable reaction by Protestants and Jews following the first encyclical of Pope Paul VI and a Council decision to amend the schema on ecumenism.

"It ranges from cautious disappointment to fairly sharp criticism," said Ave Maria, "but it is clearly different from the spirit brought by Pope John, which drew all men closer together and made them more reasonable toward one another."

The editorial said the "Protestant chill" apparently stems from a feeling that "the Church now appears to be sitting back, solemnly prepared to teach them and take them in, instead of striving for understanding in earnest dialogue."

Jews, it added, feel that a softening of the statement "acquitting" them of "deicide" and an emphasis on conversion of Jews produced something "quite different from what they expected."

The Jewish issue seems most aware of the two, the magazine said. "We can ask what the intention of the Council is. If it is really to strive to overcome anti-Semitism, we think the schema is a little less than adequate."

"Occasionally we have heard that there are men in the Church who don't want to take too strong a stand in this area, for fear of offending Moslems. All we can say to that is that it seems to us that we can manage to love both groups, and should, and that too often our expression of love for one to appease the other seems less than fully Christian."

Of the Protestant reaction, it said: "As Catholics, we can't be expected to do anything but hope for unity in what we believe to be the one, true Church of Christ, our own.

"But we can understand, respect and even fight for the freedom of those outside the Church to see things a little differently. If we can find areas of common concern and mutual understanding with them, and join with them in a pure desire to move closer to God, we can have ecumenism without betraying our own faith in the least."

"We have come to know both Protestants and Jews better since the Council started," said the editorial. "Even on our own little level, this has been good.

"This has led to love. We want it to continue. We pray that it will continue. We beg the Council Fathers to do everything possible to make it continue, all over the world."

Highway Deaths

Vatican City—(RNS)— Concern over the mounting toll of auto accidents in Italy was voiced by Osservatore Romano in an editorial which stressed that "the dead of the roads and highways are no less to be mourned than the dead in natural catastrophies which mobilize the efforts of whole nations."

"You say you've been giving up *what* for the Missions?"

Americans eat more excess food than any other nation in the world. More food is dumped in garbage pails and incinerators here in one day than one-third of the world eat in a month. The Holy Father aids the starving throughout the world, but to do it he needs YOUR help. His collection in your church on Mission Sunday, October 18th, will be the ONLY collection taken up in United States in the ENTIRE year which will be distributed by the Holy Father for the hungry and unevangelized of the ENTIRE world. If a family of twelve starving children lived next to YOU, would give them only a crust of bread? May the Christ who gave his life for YOU, inspire YOU to give as much as possible this Mission Sunday, October 18th, for the starving of the world.

Mission Sunday October 18th

MEMBERSHIPS

Individual Annual Ordinary Membership	$1	Perpetual Membership	$40
		(Any Living or Deceased Person)	
Group Annual Special Membership	$8	Family Perpetual Membership	$100

(Up to 12 persons may be included. Limited to Members of One Family)

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

REV. JOHN F. DUFFY, Diocesan Director

50 Chestnut St. HAmilton 6-1466

Workshop, Classes Listed for Catechists

New materials and techniques in religious instruction programs will be explained at the Assumption School of Religion, Fairport, Saturday, Sept. 26, at 2 p.m.

Mission Helpers of the Sacred Heart will conduct the workshop for catechists. Nuns and lay teachers are invited.

Also scheduled to get underway this month is a series of Monday evening catechist preparation courses beginning Sept. 28 — one at the Fairport school and an identical series at the Gates-Chili School of Religion. Another series for graduate catechists will begin Tuesday, Oct. 20, at Mercy High School and Wednesday, Oct. 21, at Cardinal Mooney High School.

Information and reservations may be made with Father Leonard Kelly, pastor of Assumption Church, Fairport.

Campus Religion Test for Church

New York — (RNS) — The Christian indoctrination of the increasing number of Catholic students on secular college campuses presents a challenge to the Roman Catholic Church that must be met if Catholic lay leaders are to assume major roles in world events.

This was the warning sounded in a statistical study, "Catholics in Higher Education," appearing in the Sept. 19 issue of America, national Catholic weekly. It was written by Richard J. Clifford, S.J., and William R. Callahan, S.J., both students of theology at Weston (Mass.) College.

Citing statistics to show that by 1985 some 2.9 million Catholics are expected to be enrolled in higher education, the authors said that 2.4 million—or more than 80 per cent — will be in secular colleges and universities, the article said:

"The fact is inescapable that Catholics with secular college background will soon vastly outnumber the graduates of Catholic institutions. The effect will thus be strongly felt in the lay leadership of the Church, a leadership that is increasing swiftly, both in scope and importance."

The Jesuit students pointed out that the increasing number of Catholics on secular campuses "offers one of the great opportunities of the modern Church to bring Christ's teaching and example to men."

"The influence of university education is expanding rapidly in America and throughout the world," they said. "And the example of these Catholic laymen will play a key role in determining Christ's place in the environment of higher education."

According to present statistics, the article said, the ratio of full-time priests on secular campuses is about one for every 3,100 Catholics, while Catholic campuses have a ratio of one priest or religious to every 35 students.

It asserted that to "continue the present deficient ministry to Catholics on secular campuses is to condemn the collegiate and university milieu to a steadily decreasing Christian influence."

To remedy this situation, the authors urged a step-up in the apostolate to Catholic students not attending Church-related colleges. They said that the intellectual training of priests in religious orders devoted to higher education makes them "particularly apt for this apostolate."

Since these orders, principally the Jesuits, Franciscans, Benedictines and Holy Cross Fathers, have priests with backgrounds most suited for such a ministry, the article continued, "it seems that with these orders should lie a major responsibility to provide priests for work on secular campuses."

'Honeymoon' Said Over

Dublin — (RNS) — The Anglican Church of Ireland Gazette has suggested that the "honeymoon period" of ecumenical relations, which followed the election of Pope John XXIII, is over "and we are now going to have to face up to some of the hard truths and the practical problems."

There may be some, the paper stated, "who feel that as an earnest of our real desire for unity we should be prepared to take unilateral action and repudiate all or some of the Thirty Nine Articles (of Anglican belief) in the hope that the Roman Church for her part might be encouraged to modify some of her dogmas to make them more acceptable to us."

'65 CHEVY

JIM RYAN

SEE THE NEWEST MODELS

BROWN CHEVROLET
750 WEST MAIN ST.
FA 8-7210

TRANT'S
CHURCH SUPPLIES AND RELIGIOUS ARTICLES

CHRISTMAS CRIB
PREVIEW

THIS YEAR AGAIN WE OFFER YOU ROCHESTER'S MOST COMPLETE AND DISTINCTIVE ARRAY OF NATIVITY SETS.

WOOD CARVED—FROM ITALY
OBERAMMERGAU AND TWO SELECTIONS FROM BETHLEHEM
3 PC. SETS FROM $25.00
OTHERS FROM $15.00

COMPOSITION—IMPORTED & DOMESTIC
3 PC. SETS FROM $4.50
12 & 20 PC. SETS FROM $14.50
SEPARATE PCS. AVAILABLE

OUR UNIQUE SELECTIONS OF
BOXED CHRISTMAS CARDS
ARE NOW ON DISPLAY FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE.

SHOP EARLY WHILE STOCKS ARE AT THEIR BEST.

TRANT'S 96 CLINTON AVE. N. 115 FRANKLIN ST., PHONE: BA 5-5623
OPEN DAILY 9 TO 5:30 THURS. EVE. TO 9 P.M.

an integral part of your family circle of friends

Your weekly Courier strives ever to be a friend, counselor and guide for every member of your family. As a friend we ever endeavor to keep our columns honest and forthright, worthy of your friendship.

Family and moral questions are covered by experts in their field. Religious interpretations of local and world happenings are clearly outlined, parish news, school news, weddings, deaths, are all chronicled for the readers interest.

It's a pleasurable time for many a Catholic family — we aim to keep serving the best interests of all our readers.

And of course we heartily endorse our advertisers.

They merit your support.

They too are your real friends.

The Catholic COURIER Journal
THE NEWSPAPER OF THE ROCHESTER DIOCESE