

God's World Keeping Faith

By REV. LEO TRESE

Almost certainly you have met him. He is the ex-Catholic who says, "Sure, I was a Catholic once. But I got a raw deal from the priest and I've never gone to church since." Or he may say, "I got sick of all the hypocrisy; people so pious in church on Sunday and lousies the rest of the week."



The reasons given for abandoning their faith will vary from person to person, but all such "exes" have one thing in common: they measure God by His human agents. The truth is that these fallen-aways never did have genuine faith to begin with. Whatever faith they may have had was human faith. It was a confidence (which they eventually judged to have been betrayed) in other human beings.

True faith, which we commonly call supernatural faith, is the act of believing God. It is the assent which we give to God's revelation of Himself.

God's revelation of Himself may be viewed externally as a body of truths made known to us through His written Word, the Bible, and through His living Word, Jesus Christ in His Church. However, there is an internal revelation of Himself which God makes to each of us individually.

By an operation of His grace, God confronts each of us in our innermost soul. No words are spoken, but the essence of God's communication is this: "I love you. Out of love I created you and out of love I redeemed you. I want you to love me so that we may possess each other forever. I shall help you to love Me. DO YOU BELIEVE ME?"

Even as He asks the question, God's grace is fortifying the soul to enable us to make the response He awaits: "Yes, God, I believe You!" Our response is at once a reply and a commitment. Believing, we shall live in accordance with that belief.

VERY FEW of us ever have caught ourselves in the act of this dialogue with God. It is as if we have said, an operation of grace, almost to supra-natural for us to be aware of it. But, if our faith is genuine faith, divine faith, this dialogue has occurred at some point in our spiritual pilgrimage. We have accepted God at His word; we have committed ourselves to Him.

In fact, the dialogue never ends. Each time that we encounter God anew in prayer, in the Mass and sacraments, in acts of charity, the question is asked again and the answer is given again: "Do you believe Me?" "Yes, I do believe."

It is immensely important to our religious life that we understand this—understand that we do not believe doctrines, however sublime those doctrines may be. We believe a Living Being; we believe God. Because we believe God, we believe in various truths which He has made known to us, such as those we catalogue in the Apostle's Creed. But our primary faith is not in those truths; it is in God Himself.

Once we have made this act of faith, this commitment of mind and will to God, we cannot "lose" our faith because of the scandalous behavior of some other person, even if that person be a priest or bishop. Scandals will disturb us, yes. They even may move us to tears that Christ's cause has been hurt, and certainly will move us to prayer for the scandalgiver. But, shake us? How could scandals shake us? Our faith is in God, not in men.

We are not in any real danger of abandoning our faith because of the human failures of those around us. It can be, however, that we sometimes allow external circumstances to occasion us unnecessary anxiety. For example, these times of religious discussion, experiment and

OSY Deanery Meet Held In Clifton

Clifton Springs — Rev. James F. O'Connell, pastor of St. Mary's Church, Waterloo, was guest of honor at the business meeting of Ontario-Seneca Yates Deanery Diocesan Council Catholic Women, St. Felix Hall, Clifton Springs, Dec. 15. Father was spiritual moderator of OSY since 1959.

Rev. Raymond Ringwood, assistant pastor at St. Patrick's, Seneca Falls and newly appointed spiritual moderator thanked Father O'Connell on behalf of Bishop Kearney and Rev. Leo McManus, DCCW moderator.

Mrs. Frank Lyke, president OSY Deanery spoke of Father's "enriching spiritual guidance and fine spirit of cooperation." A gift of a silver tray was presented to him by Miss Elizabeth Teller, Secretary OSY. In thanking the members Father O'Connell reminisced a bit and encourage affiliate members to radiate Christ's love to their families and communities.

At the meeting resumes were given by OSY representatives who recently attended National Council Catholic Women Convention in Washington this past November. The theme of the convention was Vatican Council II and You.

Mrs. Lyke noted that OSY deanery had the largest representation in the Rochester diocese. Mrs. Florence Fischer of Victor reported on the Confraternity of Catholic Doctrine Committee meeting. She urged women to return to their communities and do something about the dialogue between women of different faiths.

Patrick Murley Requiem Offered By Priest-Son

Solemn Funeral Mass for Patrick J. Murley was offered by his son, Rev. Paul Murley of St. Andrew's Seminary faculty in Sacred Heart Cathedral, Monday, Dec. 21. Mr. Murley, who formerly resided at 572 Magee Ave. in Sacred Heart Cathedral parish, died Dec. 17, 1964 after a short illness.

He was a blacksmith and a retired employe of Rochester Gas and Electric Corp.

Auxiliary Bishop Casey gave the absolution at the Mass. Father Murley was assisted in the Solemn Requiem Mass by Rev. Ignatius St. George, deacon and Rev. Louis J. Hohman, subdeacon. Choir was composed of St. Andrew's Seminary directed by Father Thomas W. Burr.

IN ATTENDANCE at the Mass were the Right Reverend Monsignors John M. Duffy, Wilfred T. Craugh, William J. Naughton, Arthur E. Ratican and Very Rev. Msgr. Richard M. Quinn.

Surviving Mr. Murley are his other son, William F. of Auburn, eight grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, one nephew, Timothy Murley of Auburn.

Blessing at the grave in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery was given by Bishop Casey, assisted by Father Murley and several other priests. Arrangements by Robert J. Poole Funeral Home, Dewey Ave.

Other priests in attendance at the Requiem Mass were the Reverend Fathers, John F. Duffy, John F. Cavanaugh, Michael Volpe, Eugene McFarland, Francis Pegnam, Francis Feeney, Daniel Brent, Emmett Hal-

Seton Groups In Action

13TH BRANCH of Seton Workers of St. Mary's Hospital monthly meeting to be held in St. Mary's Nurses Home Auditorium, Tuesday, Jan. 5 at 12:30 p.m. with Mrs. Henry Rausch and Mrs. Charles Fox in charge of arrangements.



RBI Honors Four Staff Members

Four faculty and staff members of Rochester Business Institute were honored recently by RBI president Robert E. Veigel at the school's annual Christmas party. They were among more than 200 persons who attended the party for adult education program, held at Brook-Sea Country Club.

typing instructor in RBI's program for almost twenty years. Mrs. Jackie Gullo, 23 Tin Oak Lane, of Christ the King parish, an instructor in the medical secretarial program, was honored on her retirement to become a mother. Mrs. Mary McBean, 235 Cobb Terrace, director of RBI's medical secretarial program was the recipient of a ten year pin for service.

For The Bowlers

Rochester Catholic Men's Bowling Club members who bowled at the Rochester Bowling Center, 215 E. Main St., on Dec. 20.

McQuaid High School News

By Steve Elman and Dick Blum
McQuaid High this year has on its faculty the Rev. Raymond M. Chilla, S.J. Born in Hungary, Father Chilla entered the Society of Jesus in 1938. After taking his final vows, he was ordained a priest in Belgium in 1949. He later studied at the University of Montreal, and taught at St. Peter's College in Jersey City, N.J.

At the present, Father Chilla is teaching French to sophomores and juniors, and is the freshman student counselor. As McQuaid's Director of Worship, he is deeply interested in advancing the liturgical reforms of the church. He has introduced the singing of new English hymns at Mass, along with a series of English prayers in litany form for the Masses at McQuaid.

Christmas came in a big way at McQuaid this year. The school was gaily decorated with Christmas trees, wreaths, and other signs of the season. Among the benefits for the students was an assembly and program of entertainment by the McQuaid Dance Band, the French Club choir, and a hilarious interpretation of a Robert Benchley piece by one of the school's accomplished orators, Dan Mack. The program was closed by Father Robert J. McQuaid.

The climax came on the last day before the Christmas recess, when the Alpha and the Omega (first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, symbolizing Christ as the beginning and end of everything) were added.

The sum total of McQuaid's Christmas projects was an enjoyable celebration of the season for both the students' families and those of others.

DATE BOOK

Harp's Party
New Year's Eve plans for the Harps Club, 115 Buffalo Rd are reported taking shape. Noisemakers, hats and music by the Harps' orchestra to be provided. Dancing from 9 to 3.

Men's Guild
Cardinal Mooney Men's Guild to meet Tuesday, Jan. 5, 7:30 p.m. at the Cardinal Mooney High School, Maiden Lane. Edwin Wezman to outline plans for the Mardi Gras, Feb. 26 and 27. All men of guild age expected at the meeting.

Mass, Dinner
Men-to-attend Mass Wednesday, Jan. 6 at 5:30 p.m. in Columbus Civic Center chapel to be celebrated by Rev. Louis J. Hohman—those who wish may receive Holy Communion. After Mass, dinner to be served in Parlor A, members asked to bring own silver. Grace Leavens and Florence Mahon and their bands to be hostesses.

'Secret' Reports Called Fantasy

Lisbon—(NC)—The Catholic daily newspaper, A Voz, has condemned as obvious fabrications published reports to the effect that the alleged "secret of Fatima" includes threats of war, dissidence in the Church and general tribulations.

A Voz voiced astonishment that these reports were published in Mensagem de Fatima the organ of the so-called Blue Army of Fatima. It said the reports are so at odds with the original message of Our Lady of Fatima—a message of prayer and penance—that they must be labeled fantasy.



Miss Sheehan Honored

MISS MARY SHEEHAN (center), head of the Division of Teacher Education at St. John Fisher College, accepts a plaque commemorating her selection as the 1964 winner of the annual Mother Xavier Award bestowed by her alma mater, the College of St. Elizabeth, Convent Station, N.J. Making the presentation is Reverend Mother Joanna Marie, Mother General of the Sisters of Charity of St. Elizabeth. Sister Hildegard Marie, president of the college, looks on. Miss Sheehan, a former principal of Monroe High School, traveled to Convent Station for the presentation ceremonies. She is a 1913 graduate of the College of St. Elizabeth.

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