

Time For Drinks?

Monk Recalls Flivver Days

By NEWELL SCHINDLER New Orleans — (NC) — "Father, do you want the drinks now?" a confused altar boy blurted out, starting the congregation.

The boy couldn't remember whether it was time for water and wine or time to move the missal from the Epistle to the Gospel side of the altar.

It happened back in 1920 at Liberty Settlement, but Benedictine Father Odilo Alt remembered as if it happened just yesterday during a reminiscing session about his 45 years as a missionary in out-of-the-way communities which dotted Louisiana's pine woods country.

Father Alt began riding the mission trails 45 years ago on horseback. He graduated to horse-and-buggy, then to a "flivver."

The 73-year-old Benedictine said it all started back in 1920 when he was talking with his superior at St. Joseph's abbey and seminary near Covington, La. Father Alt speculated: "There ought to be some Catholics in Folsom." His superior replied: "Go and look." And Father Alt did.

In Folsom, 15 miles from Covington he didn't find many Catholics. He did find folks whose grandfathers were Catholics and who felt they also were Catholics, but knew little or nothing about the Faith and its services.

Father Alt recalled the first Mass he offered in Folsom. His church was an old barn, his

congregation more curious than devout. The barn owner was most cooperative, Father Alt recalled, furnishing everything for Mass. The owner's wife told the priest not to hesitate asking for anything else he needed.

When Father Alt turned to the congregation during the Mass and intoned the first "Inimicus vobiscum," the barn owner's wife interpreted the expression and his gesture as a request.

"She came forward and asked, 'What do you need now, Father?' I told her I needed nothing, that everything was fine. But she insisted, 'Come now, Father, don't be bashful. What ever you need you'll get,' Father Alt related.

He remembers that about 30 years ago he baptized a boy. For the parish records, he asked the mother when the boy was born.

"The woman replied, 'He was born the day the lightning struck the china ball tree and it fell over and killed the cow with the gray horns.' I asked again on what day the boy was born and the woman replied, 'On the day the lightning struck.' I eventually had to look at the boy's teeth and make a guess," Father Alt recalled.



Religious Rite at UN Anniversary

San Francisco — (RNS) — Secretary General U Thant (right) and leaders of the world's major religions occupied the speakers' platform at the unusual Convocation of Religion for World Peace marking the founding of the United Nations in San Francisco. Seated from left are: Archbishop Martin J. O'Connor of Rome's North American Pontifical College and president of the Pontifical Commission for Social Communications, who read a message from Pope Paul VI; Minh-Chau, president of Van Hanh University; Saigon; Dr. Jessie Baird of San Francisco, former moderator of the United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.; Dr. Haridas Chandhuri; Dr. Paul F. Fung, a leading San Francisco Buddhist; Catholic Auxiliary Bishop Merlin J. Guilfoyle of San Francisco; Dr. Ali Hassen Abdel Kadar of Washington, D.C.; and Mrs. William Rogers, vice-president, World Affairs Council of Northern California. Also attending the convocation were Protestant, Orthodox and Jewish religious leaders.

How a Bar Became A Convent

Wilmington, Del. — (NC) — Now that the new convent for the Franciscan nuns who staff St. Anthony of Padua parochial school is nearing completion, Salesian Father Roberto Balducci delights in telling the story of the conversion of Mularkey's Bar.

Mularkey's was a popular oasis hereabouts, Father Balducci recalled, so this one morning a man wandered in for a drink. The man found the room empty, a bricklayer hard at work.

"Remodeling, huh?" the man observed. "Yep," replied the bricklayer.

"But where's the bar?" asked the man. "Sold it," replied the bricklayer. "Why?" the man asked. "To make room for the altar for —" the bricklayer replied. "To make room for what?" asked the startled man. "For the altar for the nuns' convent," said the bricklayer. "Altars — nuns — this is no place for me," said the man, leaving the once popular oasis.

Father Balducci was the bricklayer.

He said when the chance cropped up some months ago to buy Mularkey's popular bar and beer garden near the parish plant, he grabbed it. He had a time convincing the nuns and some parishioners the converted Mularkey's would make an ideal convent. The nuns were something like the man who wandered into the bar, only in reverse, the priest said.

Investigated

Vatican City — (NC) — The Congregation of Rites has met here to investigate the heroic quality of the virtues of Bishop Vital Justin-Grandin, first ordinary of the diocese of St. Albert, now the archdiocese of Edmonton, Alta.

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28 Receive Marian Award In Geneva

Geneva — Twenty-eight Girl Scouts from Cadet Troop 284, St. Stephen's School, received the Marian Award recently in ceremonies conducted in St. Stephen's Church. Father Robert Buckland presented the awards.

The Marian Award is the highest Catholic Girl Scout award granted for outstanding achievement. The 28 recipients mark the largest group in the Diocese of Rochester to receive this award at one time.

Father Phillip Lioi of St. Francis de Sales Church addressed the Girl Scouts. Father Sebastian Cap, was present for the ceremonies. A reception was held later in St. Stephen's school hall for the parents of the scouts and Sisters of St. Stephen's.

'Can't Close Doors' Scholars Study Birth Problems

Denver — (NC) — The retiring president of the Catholic Theological Society of America cautioned modern theologians to maintain a balanced approach in guiding the Christian conscience toward solution of the expanding population problem.

Jesuit Father Gerald F. Van Ackeren, of St. Mary's College of Kansas, said today's theologian "cannot close the doors to any legitimate advance in technology" and he "cannot open the doors to just any and every new wind of opinion that happens to blow."

The society's 20th annual convention here elected Father Eamon R. Carroll, O. Carm., theology professor at the Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C., as the new president. He served as vice president for the last two years and is a former president of the Mariological Society of America.

In his final address as society president, Father Van Ackeren asserted that the problem of responsible parenthood is clouded by "theologies who are questioning the very competence of the Church" in the area of natural morality.

"Others, although relatively few in number, are taking the stand, expressly in private discussion, that the Church herself is now in a state of indecision about the contraceptive use of the pill and even about contraception itself," he said.

"The positions taken by these theologians are an important factor contributing to the confusion of the Christian conscience in this area today," Father Van Ackeren declared.

In the past, moral theologians have no doubt tended to exercise control over the Christian conscience by making decisions

which the faithful should have been making themselves," he said.

Too often "ready-made capsule solutions have been handed out to rather personal complex problems," he declared.

Such theologians, however zealous, often leave the problem floundering without providing fundamental and sufficient guidance, he added.

"Until we have discovered satisfactorily the laws of evolutionary development in the life, doctrine and practice of the Church, we can expect theology to be in crisis," Father Van Ackeren said.

Father Robert O. Johann, S.J., of Loyola Seminary, Shrub Oak, N.Y., said the controversy over the morality of contraceptive practices has "widened into a discussion of morality in such" as he added that the "very idea of natural law is being newly examined and questioned."

Father Damian J. Blaher, O.F.M., of Holy Name College, Washington, D.C., said the family planning problem "has become on the confessional and pastoral plane one of near crisis."

"One reason that can be given for the slow entrance of this subject into the theological arena is the simple fact that there was not much use talking about planning when there was no way to plan," the Franciscan asserted.

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Mrs. James Hogan Mother of Nun Hornell — Mrs. Anna Hughes Hogan, wife of James P. Hogan, 14 W. Pine St., Hornell, died Monday, June 28 at St. James Mercy Hospital. Born in Lackawanna, N.Y., she was a resident of Hornell for the past 41 years.

Survivors besides her husband include one son, James, at home, and one daughter, Sister Mary Victorine of St. Ann's Convent, Hornell, and a sister Miss Elizabeth Hughes of Buffalo.

In addition to sisters from Hornell, Mother Bride of Rochester Mercy Motherhouse attended the Requiem Mass sung in St. Ignatius Loyola Church by Rev. Joseph P. Hailey, Pastor. Rev. Hubert Biley, Rev. John Loughlin, and Rev. Hugh Brady assisted in the sanctuary and at the Committal Service in St. Mary's Cemetery, Thursday. Funeral arrangements by Curry's Funeral Home of Hornell.

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