

Textbook Plan Opposed

God's World

The Vision Of Faith

By FATHER LEO J. TRESE

In the physical order we probably would rate our health as being our most precious possession. If we had to make such a decision, we would choose good health in preference to all the gold and jewels in the world.



In the spiritual order our most precious possession surely is our religious faith. If we did not believe in God, in His love for us and in His promise of eternal happiness, this life would be largely meaningless—a few years of consciousness between oblivion and oblivion.

Many of us give far more attention to the cultivation of our bodily well-being than we do to the cultivation of our faith. Yet faith, like health, can be weakened and can be lost.

The catechism defines faith as "the virtue by which we firmly believe all the truths which God has revealed, on the word of God revealing them, who can neither deceive nor be deceived."

If we analyze our own act of faith, we can see that there really are three steps involved in it. First of all we believe that God exists, a personal, infinitely wise and all-loving God. This is THE big step in the act of faith. All else depends upon it.

Next, we believe that God has made Himself known to mankind. Through the events and the prophets of the Old Testament, and most especially in the person of His Son Jesus Christ, God has revealed to us certain truths about Himself and about our relationship to Him.

Finally, believing that God exists and that God has spoken, we give our firm assent to what God has said. We believe His words.

It is clear that we could not take these steps unaided. A man honestly in search of the truth could come to a knowledge of God's existence from the evidence afforded by the created universe. But this would be a natural knowledge, not supernatural faith. There would be no act of the will involved which says, "I believe." There would be only an act of the intellect which says, "I know."

Moreover, the natural proofs which can be adduced for the existence of God are persuasive, not compelling. A man may listen to such proofs and still say, "I do not believe." If the natural evidence of God's existence were so strong as to force assent, there would be no atheists in the world.

To make the step from a merely human acceptance of God's existence to the absolute certainty which supernatural faith gives us, we must have God's positive assistance. Especially must we have that assistance for our assent to such humanly unknowable mysteries as the Trinity and the Incarnation.

To those who seek it, consciously or unconsciously, God gives this assistance. We call it the grace of faith. This is a continuing grace, not a once-in-a-lifetime grace. God is at work in us always, enabling us to grow in our knowledge of Him and in the strength of our adherence to Him.

The grace of faith never is withdrawn as long as we continue to cooperate with it. The grace is endangered and its force is weakened any time that we expose our faith to unnecessary danger; as, for example, by unwise reading or by deliberately entertaining doubts against our faith. But the grace is not wholly lost unless and until we commit ourselves to outright disbelief in one of more of God's revealed truths.

To cooperate with the grace of faith means to be grateful to God for this great gift. It means to make frequent acts of faith and to pray for a stronger faith. Especially it means to make our faith a living force in our lives, to make our actions accord with what we profess to believe. The more wholeheartedly we try to do God's will, the stronger grows our faith. The more our behavior is at odds with what we believe, the more we ex-

World's Faiths Meet in Paris

Paris — (NC) — Father Danielou, S.J., dean of the Paris theological school and a consultant to the new Vatican Secretariat for Non-Christians, gave the Catholic report at the opening of the second congress of the World Alliance of Religions.

The meeting brought together some 200 prominent members of the Christian, Jewish, Moslem, Hindu and Buddhist faiths from many parts of the world. Among telegrams of greeting read at the opening was one from the Dalai Lama, the Buddhist god-king of Tibet who is now in exile in India.

Missal to Add 4 New Prefaces

Washington — (NC) — The Holy See has granted permission for the use of four new prefaces of the Canon at Masses in the United States.

The four are for Advent, for Masses of the Blessed Sacrament such as the feast of Corpus Christi, for all saints and patron saints, and for the feast of the dedication of a church.

The announcement said the text, in Latin and English, together with musical settings for sung Masses, will appear in the new missal supplement for liturgical use, the English-Latin Sacramentary, which is being published in March.

Plea to Pope, Keep Latin

Rome — (NC) — A group of internationally-known writers and artists has petitioned Pope Paul VI to preserve the Latin-language Mass with Gregorian chant.

Among the petitioners, both Catholics and non-Catholics, are British poet W. H. Auden, Swedish film writer and director Ingmar Bergman, British composer Benjamin Britten, Spanish cellist Pablo Casals, and Italian composer Luigi Dallapiccola.

Others on the list are Spanish historian Salvador de Madariaga, French critic Julien Green, German poet Gertrud von Le Fort, French philosophers Gabriel Marcel and Jacques Maritain.

To Walk Again

Father Richard Morrisroe, 26, of Chicago walks with the aid of a cane six months after being critically shot because of his civil rights activities in Haynesville, Ala. The priest held a news conference in a suburban Oak Park hospital and indicated he planned to initiate a civil suit as a result of the shooting. Father Morrisroe is assistant pastor of St. Columbanus church, a predominantly Negro parish. He was wounded in August as he and an interracial group tried to enter a food store. A white Episcopal seminarian, Jonathan M. Danley of Keene, N.H., with the group was shot fatally.

The Council's commission made plain that it opposed more than expansion. "If the principle of the Ferrall Act were to be accepted, the change to a lower grade would be simply a matter of financing and not subject to much protest.

"However, it is our position that the Ferrall Act... is clearly unconstitutional, since the constitution prohibits the use of state property, credit or any public money directly or indirectly, in aid or maintenance, other than examination or inspection, of any school or institution of learning wholly or in part under the control or direction of any religious denomination, or in which any denominational tenet or doctrine is taught."

"What we have here, then," said the Council commission, "is a proposal for expansion of an unconstitutional law to embrace a further misapplication of public money. This alone would be sufficient reason to urge its defeat."

Scholarship Winners

- (Continued from Page 1)
- Susan Davis, Marguerite De Yaeger, Mary Anne Farren, Kathleen Gill, Margaret Gilman, Mary Hayes, Sarah Keane.
 - Kathleen Keating, Mary Claire Kennedy, Jean Koerner, Ann Meng, Kathleen O'Connor.
 - Judith Plante, Margaret Mary Proseus, Susan Randall, Margaret Stolze, Cecilia Viggo, Catherine Weisskopf.
 - Nazareth Academy, Rochester, 14—Helen Burd, Rosemarie Cardamone, Jean Chechak, Bonnie Cyaacs, Mary Jo Cook, Rose Di Nanno, Judith Donahue.
 - Ellen Holden, Julie Mahar, Patricia Roberts, Kathleen Rolwing, Margaret Tracy, Elaine Tunaitis, Rosemary Zuck.
 - St. Andrew's Seminary, Rochester, 7 — Frank Crociata, Charles Di Salvo, Stephen Menemeyer, Vaughn Polmentecr, John Vorrasi, Robert Sullivan, Thomas Wolf.
 - Notre Dame High School, Elmira, 22—Phyllis Burke, Jane Cummings, Barbara Dunlap, Michael Harris, Maureen Hassett, John Irwin, Vicki Kessing, Richard Kubiak, John Leonard, Mary Linberger, Donald Macdonald, Joseph Maio, John Marosek, David Merriam, John Morrissey, Michael Murphy, J. Dennis Murray, Mary Frances Richardson, Nicholas Rossi, Paul Trainor, and Nancy Weber.
 - Mt. Carmel High School, Auburn, 14—Margaret Barron, Ralph Caruana, Gerald Fitzgerald, Linda Gallaro, William Laird, Dennis Loudon, Ruth Dec, David Morgan.
 - Susan Zink, Mary Goodelle, David Myrlogot, Joseph McGuire, Ann Shaw, Nancy Kuncio.
 - DeSales High School, Geneva, 4—Susan Klein, Jacqueline Maley, Florence Murphy and James Rickney.
 - Sacred Heart Academy, Rochester, 1—Altee Burns.
 - John Slattery, Frederick Sorrentino, Peter Struble, Thomas Tarpey, Michael Veroclen, William Waterman.
 - Bishop Kearney High School, Irondequoit, 31—Eric Alchovniak, Thomas Bailey, Lawrence Belli, Fred Bleier, Mary Ann Camilleri, Felice Cersuone, Paul Ciardi, William Clements.
 - Michael Critelli, Paul Critelli, Virginia Ehrstein, Christopher Enos, Suzanne Hall, Kathleen Passaro, Gregory Giles, Joseph Hall.
 - Honora Heeky, David Holowka, Patricia Kirchgessner, Andrew Langkopf, Paul Moore, Lawrence Moran.
 - Daniel Oberst, Roger Palma, Barbara Parks, Richard Pero, Anne Schweggenburger, Norbert Szymula, Robert Tomasso, Richard Van Hanchen.
 - Daniel Walsh, James Walters, Greg Wroblewski, Joseph Yoder, Daniel Young, Jacqueline Zick, Eugene Zito.
 - Our Lady of Mercy High School, Brighton, 19—Andrea Audin, Sharon Chamberlain.

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ST. MARY, says Altar Society guest speaker John F. Duffy. Month-party bands of Mrs. and Mrs. Fratt meeting, March.

ST. CECILIA dies Guild 1 March 1. Conf. tian Mothers' at 8 p.m. Bu church hall a speaker, Faith Refreshments Reidman's bar.

HOLY CROSS held Feb. 9. presided, Rosi William Lamm classes to Lenten devoti Catholic Press Lammers.

Confra corpor fashion (seated Mrs.)

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