

More as a Human Than as a Martyr

St. Thomas More's legacy to Christianity as an exponent of humanism outstrips his importance as a martyr, in the opinion of Abbe Germain Marc'hadour, distinguished professor of English at the University of the West, Angers, France, who spoke on the "Prince Charming of Humanism" at St. John Fisher College Monday.

Father Marc'hadour told his audience that More's chief work, "Utopia," has great value for the man who has never encountered Christ as well as for the professed Christian, adding that in his personal library is a copy of the classic printed in Moscow and given to him free of charge by the Russians because they "couldn't charge a foreigner



for something that is so loved here by us."

According to Father Marc'hadour, Erasmus, a contemporary of the martyred English saint who was himself a friend and confidant of St. John Fisher, patron of the Diocese of Rochester, called him a "man for all seasons" because he was so far in advance of other learned men of his times while remaining deeply involved with the common people of his society.

A frequent visitor to the United States, the Abbe currently is visiting professor of English at the University of Notre-Dame. His appearance at Fisher was sponsored by the English Department of the college.

God's World

Quest For Popularity

By FATHER LEO J. TRESE

We all like to have other people think well of us. The desire for the good opinion of our fellows is as natural as the desire for food when we are hungry. A person who says, "I don't care what people think about me," either is psychologically ill or is striking a pose or is defending himself against an uneasy conscience.



We are well aware that the desire for the approval of others can degenerate into moral cowardice. There are times in our lives when we have to take an unpopular stand because it is the morally right stand. There are times when we have to side with God against the multitude. Such occasions, when they occur, call for a high degree of courage precisely because it is so natural to want to be liked and respected.

FORTUNATELY our temptations to the sin of human respect are not too frequent. In spite of the contempt for public opinion professed by some avant garde individuals, public opinion is more often than not a safe guide to decent human behavior. Most people do have good instincts and what the majority hold to be offensive usually is just that.

The Congress was intended to focus special attention on directives contained in Pope Paul's VI's encyclical, *Mysterium Fidei* (Mystery of the Faith), in which he cautioned lest "a new wave of Eucharistic piety which is pervading the whole world be frustrated" by the spread of certain false opinions of some theologians.

A new formula for Eucharistic Congresses was introduced in Bordeaux this year. There were no appeals to the general public to take part in Congress activities, nor were any spectacular ceremonies organized. The Congress was to be a session of intensive study of the Eucharistic liturgy and of the papal encyclical.

Every Catholic organization in France was asked to send a delegation prepared to answer questions about the influence of the Eucharist on the personal lives, to present suggestions for greater devotion to the sacraments, and for improvements in the liturgy. They also were to ask questions about Pope Paul's encyclical.

As it turned out, a large number of organizations were not represented and even many religious orders failed to send delegations. Less than a thousand persons attended. Questions sent out in previous months were not returned, or were only partially completed.

Limerick's Liturgy Limerick (NC) — A lay panel headed by a Dublin journalist discussed "Prayer Pattern for the Family," a special feature of the 13th annual Liturgical Congress, held at St. Columba's Abbey.

It would be a great mistake, of course, to make popularity an end in itself. It is possible to be too concerned about what other people may think of us.

POPULARITY-SEEKERS surrender their autonomy of thought and action in order to manufacture an image of themselves which will be pleasing, they hope, to their peers and their betters. They are scrupulous conformers, taking on the coloration of whatever group they may happen to be

Warning from Washington

Govt. Intrusion On Family Size

Washington (NC) — Under a bill now pending in Congress, the size of American families would become the business of government for the first time in history. A Catholic family life spokesman warned here.

The bill, sponsored by Senator Ernest Gruening of Alaska, is "neither good, necessary, prudent nor safe legislation," declared John T. Kenna, special assistant in the Family Life Bureau of the National Catholic Welfare Conference.

"It is the genie that should be kept in the bottle, the Pandora's box that should be kept tightly closed," Kenna said of the Gruening bill.

Kenna spoke to the Washington Catholic Roundtable, a local discussion group, on the subject of birth control and public policy. Appearing on the same program and defending the right of government to conduct family planning programs was Jesuit Father Dexter L. Hanley of the Georgetown University law school.

Father Hanley expanded on arguments he has made before — notably in testimony last August before the Senate subcommittee headed by Sen. Ernest Gruening of Alaska — to the effect that government has a legitimate role in the family planning field, provided it does not prefer one method over another.

Procession Honors Virgin Of Chickens

Rome (RNS) — An estimated 5,000 Roman Catholics in the town of Paganà near Salerno — mostly women and children — broke through a cordon of police who tried to prevent them from holding a Sunday morning religious procession in defiance of their bishop.

Bishop Alfredo Vozzi of Cava and Sarno had ordered the procession held in the afternoon after hearing that the traditional morning procession usually ended in drinking and picnicking at cantinas along the route.

However, the townspeople, apparently regarding this as an unwarranted outside interference, gathered at the usual time outside the church, and were all set to march out with a statue of the Virgin Mary when police intervened.

The police were able to hold the crowd back for a while, but were finally forced to yield when serious violence threatened. Several officers suffered minor contusions and were treated on the scene.

With quiet restored, the townspeople started off at their customary hour with the statue — called the Virgin of the Chickens — at their head. However, none of the local priests marched with them.

French Eucharist Congress Turns Out to be Flop

Bordeaux (RNS) — A three-day National Eucharistic Congress closed here on a note of sharp disappointment — Catholics had hoped it would be the highlight of the year in religion in France.

With observers commonly agreed that the Congress was unsuccessful, the organizers found themselves criticized for insufficient preparation and for not having associated the Catholic faithful more closely with the event.

Despite the presence of three cardinals, 20 archbishops and bishops, two mitred abbots and the Papal Nuncio, Archbishop Paolo Bertoli, the Congress was completely overlooked by the nation outside the Bordeaux archdiocese.

Apart from one critical article in the Paris daily, *Le Monde*, events of the Congress were

Red Robes for Easter White for Funerals

Hong Kong (RNS) — Radical changes of "Mass colors" have been authorized by Roman Catholic authorities here and in other areas in the Far East. The changes are designed to conform to the local community's interpretation of the meaning of colors.

Traditionally, white vestments are used at happy feasts of the Church — but in many Oriental areas white is a sign of mourning. Thus white, not black, vestments will be worn at Requiem Masses.

White also will no longer be used for Nuptial Masses and the joyous feasts of the Church, notably Easter. Instead the priest will wear red — a color which in the Far East signifies love and joy.

Catholic authorities said the changes were authorized by Vatican II's Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy which urges, whenever possible, adaptation when traditional garb clashes with the local interpretation.

ignored by the French secular press. The Paris Catholic daily, *La Croix*, tried unconvincingly to whip up interest, but while it paid tribute to the sincerity and enthusiasm of the small group taking part, it, too, was critical of the way it was organized.

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