

JOSEPH BREIG SAYS

Quarter Century For CRS, Top Charity



ON THE RIGHT SIDE

Sophisticates Reject Miracles



By Father Paul J. Cuddy

Among the most heartwarming stories of our time is that of U.S. Catholic Relief Services, overseas aid agency of American Catholics.

This year, CRS observes its 25th year of helping the needy around the globe.

In that quarter of a century, CRS has grown from infancy into the largest non-governmental aid agency in mankind's history.

CRS also has established itself as "the biggest charity bargain ever seen on earth."

Every dollar donated to it is translated into 10, 20, even 30 times as much in terms of help for the needy.

Two factors make this possible—CRS frugality, and generous donations of surplus goods from U.S. government stocks.

Both the goods given by government and those donated by the people, are distributed for the most part by unpaid volunteers—priests, Sisters, Brothers and lay people all around the world.

CRS expenses, therefore, in comparison with its accomplishments, are very low.

There is only one criterion—need. Help is given without regard to creed, color, nationality, politics, etc.

In its 25 years of existence, CRS has aided the poor in almost countless numbers in more than 70 nations.

The value of the food, clothing, medicine and other goods distributed has added up, over the years, to the staggering total of \$1,750,000,000.

To realize adequately what this has meant for the stability of the world and the future of the human race, you've got to refresh your memory a bit.

The skies of the world were terrifying black in 1943 when Catholic Relief Services came into existence.

Sometimes it seemed that everything decent was doomed; that the human rights for which men and women had sacrificed through the centuries were lost, and we were destined for brutal slavery either under Hitler's nazism or under Stalin's communism.

Even after Hitlerism was smashed, Stalinism remained, threatening to overrun western civilization.

In those bitter days, Catholic Relief Services and other voluntary groups—Catholic and Jewish organizations, civic bodies such as CARE, and the government's Marshall Plan—plunged into the herculean and

seemingly hopeless labor of lifting the world out of chaos and starvation.

The resulting achievements were sensational. The balance of the world was tipped; the courses of history reversed. Evil was overcome by good. It is a chapter in the annals of mankind which has not yet found a writer-worthy of a topic so soul-stirring.

Never has unselfish generosity to those in need been more richly rewarded by God who says to us, "Amen, if you did it to one of these my least brethren, you did it to me."

Last year, more than six million hungry children were fed by CRS. Nearly seven million other persons received supplemental foods to lift them out of under-nourishment. Four million were given health and welfare aid.

This year, the U.S. bishops have selected March 24 as the date for the yearly collection in all parishes for CRS.

As usual, the national goal has been set at the modest figure of \$5 million—which divides out to 10 cents from each American Catholic. As always the goal will be exceeded. In this 25th year, it should be more greatly exceeded than ever before. We should make it a special year of celebration for the needy.

It has always seemed strange to me that men will accept miracles in the Bible, and assume that God has made no revelations or miracles during 2000 years since.

It is true that the Church teaches us that private revelations are NOT matters of Faith that MUST be believed. But it is also true that the Church by her blessing on certain devotions, including Lourdes, Fatima and Paray le Monial, has given a credibility which cannot be lightly set aside.

In 1950 Father Robert Kress and I went to Portugal to visit Fatima. We were joined by a Spanish Vincentian, Padre Frederico Del Olmo and Mr. Jerome Wainright, an English barrister who had his office in Lisbon, and was an old friend of the Spanish priest, Mr. Wainright is a convert to the Catholic Faith and the father of an only child, a daughter who is a Carmelite nun, and whose sponsor in religion is Lucy, known in religion as Sister Lucia Dolores, the only survivor of the three children to whom our Lady appeared at Fatima.

One afternoon we three priests went to Fatima, and stayed overnight. The next day we said Mass at the shrine, had breakfast at a local seminary. We visited the parents of Jacinta and Francisco. The parents were tiny and simple. Later we were entertained at tea by Mrs. Wainright at her home. She told us that she and her husband had moved from England to Fatima to be able to live at the place where Our Lady appeared.

She described the great change in family life and religious life all through Portugal, which had been fanatically anti-Catholic, after the appearances of Our Lady. Of special interest to me was this account she gave:

"An English-governess of friends of ours was present at the 'Miracle of the Sun'. She described the gyrations of the sun, the awe and terror of the people, the rain and the sudden drying up. The governess told how the colors emitted by the sun were seen differently by different people—but surely seen. She told of the number there—some 70,000, who were there because some 'mir-

acle' had been foretold to the children by 'the Lady'—even to the very day, May 13, 1917."

It would seem strange to me that miracles took place before the coming of Christ; during the time of Christ; during the time of the Apostles; and that they should end forever. It would seem strange to me that for 2,000 years God would not manifest His supernatural power every once in a while to a world which needs occasional supernatural manifestations.

Last year I read an article by Father Albert Shamon, pastor of Victor and one of the soundest priests in the diocese. He wrote: "Some people will try to explain even the miracles of the Gospels away. When an unbeliever asked Dr. Cousous to prove that

Bernadette of Lourdes had an apparition he shrugged his shoulders and said: 'For those who believe in God, no explanation is needed. For those who do not believe, no explanation is sufficient.'"

Occasionally two moving pictures are shown on TV: THE MIRACLE OF FATIMA, and THE SONG OF BERNADETTE. Both are quite accurate in historical details. If you see the pictures, please write to the TV station and thank them.

There are two fine books too: Our Lady of Fatima, by Walsh, and The Song of Bernadette by an Austrian Jew, Franz Werfel.

Those who have the traditional faith will profit by them. They may well be only an annoyance to the sophisticates.

Lutheran's View of Reunity

Protestants "Must Accept" Pope

Philadelphia — (RNS) — A Lutheran theologian declared in an article published here that "Protestants united church of the future will be equipped with a papal office and a college of bishops."

Dr. Carl Braaten of the Lutheran School of Chicago wrote of the "reunited church of the future" in the Winter issue of the Journal of Ecumenical Studies, published by Temple University.

After accepting the presuppositions of papacy and bishops, he said, the church should "get on with the business of transforming both to catch up to modern needs and realities."

"The question is not whether to have a papacy and an episcopacy within—not outside of, or above—the one people of God, but for what purpose and on what basis?"

The theologian began his article by reflecting on a 1966 controversy produced by his reference to a Protestant "return to Rome."

In an article in Una Sancta, an independent quarterly, Dr. Braaten employed a parable in which Protestants were likened to exiles, and he appealed to Protestants to work for reunion with their "ecclesiastical homeland."

The weekly Christian Century called Dr. Braaten's proposal "Protestant Hari-kiri." It was defended by a number of theologians.

Dr. Braaten wrote: "Roman Catholics have the duty to create the conditions which will pave the way for the reunion of all Christians."

He stressed very strongly that Catholic structures, such as papacy and episcopacy, "will be acceptable to Protestants, and certainly to Lutherans, only when they have been divested of every authoritarian feature, both in theory and practice."

The Lutheran clergyman urged Protestants to understand themselves as exiles rather than as "emigrants." Martin Luther, he stated, did not intend to emigrate from the Catholic Church, but hoped to "reform the only church he ever knew, not to start a new one from scratch, like a Joseph Smith or a Mary Baker Eddy."

Projecting a reunited church in the future, Dr. Braaten noted the need for continuing Protestant and Catholic attention to a doctrine of the church. He did not advocate dogmatic uniformity.

In Dr. Braaten's view a reunited church will continue the papacy and the episcopal offices because they serve as "representative signs" of continuity with Jesus and the Apostles and may serve "as special agencies to attend to the self-identity of the church."

The Chicago Lutheran professor noted that Protestants and Catholics are bound to be embarrassed if they appeal too strongly to Scripture to

deny or support the hierarchical structure of the church.

Tradition Rather Than Scripture

"There is no 'direct and clear' biblical basis for Catholic papal and episcopal 'doctrines,'" he said, adding that it is also clear that the episcopacy was universal by the middle of the second century. He called it a tradition which "goes back too far to dismiss... as an erroneous later development of the church."

"Whatever the papacy and episcopacy are supposed to do now, to be done," Dr. Braaten asserted, "they are specialized forms of ministry to the people of God in history. The needs which originally gave rise to them still exist. Special ecclesiastical offices and functions, which help the church to be truly one, holy, catholic and apostolic, are still needed..."

The article maintained that the structural issue is the major deterrent to the reunion of Churches. The author suggested that this problem may be overcome only when the Churches "take seriously their eschatological mission to the world, when they think of themselves not merely in terms of their past... but think of their present in light of that absolute future which God has promised and for which the church is called to prepare the world."

Dr. Braaten stated that papacy and episcopacy in the church "must be justified by works alone, and not by faith. By their fruits we shall know them."

'Bearings' to Help Former Priests

By PAUL J. DWYER

Washington (NC)—The founder-director of Bearings for Reestablishment, Inc.—a non-profit tax-exempt organization established to serve the readjustment problems of former priests—said here many of these men often have a cope not only with guilt, hostility and suspicion, but more especially with the practical problems of beginning a "new life" and a new job.

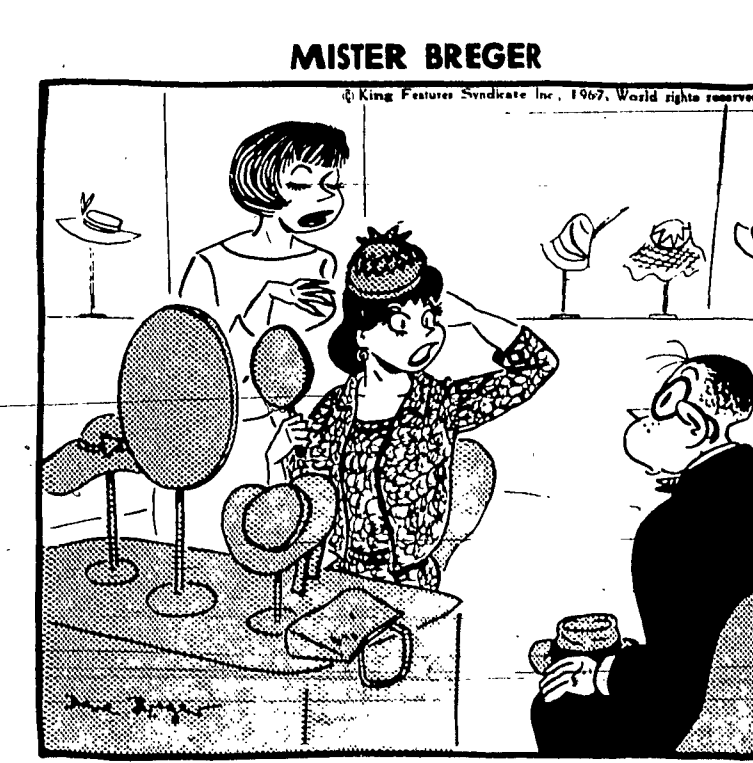
William P. Restivo formed Bearings in May, 1966, to help priests and nuns who have left religious life reestablish themselves in the secular community.

Restivo said that the organization's primary aim is to "provide a framework whereby, once they are reestablished, these men and women will be able to help themselves. We are able to help others in similar predicaments whereby they can continue to make a meaningful contribution to their community—to society," he said.

Restivo stated that the men and women who come to Bearings are referred to the organization either by their former religious superiors, by "active" members of the clergy, or by other former religious.

According to the director, when a man first contacts Bearings an initial interview is arranged to "determine his basic needs." These, include temporary lodgings—at the home of lay people, or in rectories, if a man has not yet formally left the priesthood and if he so desires—and a temporary job to "alleviate the immediate financial burden." Bearings also lends money to its clients for other "emergency living expenses," he added.

The director said the person is then subjected to a battery of aptitude and psychological tests, for the purpose of revealing possible undiscovered talents, abilities and skills.



"I don't know what to do—I like it best, but it's less than I want to spend..."

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Weekly Crossword

- ACROSS: 1. Glide, 5. Strike, 9. Abundant, 10. Stogie, 12. Quantities of paper, 13. Lift, 14. Guys' companions, 15. Glum, 16. Biblical city, 17. Large, 18. Overhead train, 19. Forest-like, 22. Game fish, 24. Aircraft part, 26. Tardy, 28. River current, 31. Bovine, 32. Islet, 33. What?, 34. Starry, 37. Dancer, 39. Pools, 40. Audibly, 41. Fishing net, 42. Bellows, 43. Specks, 44. Give over, DOWN: 1. Smudgy, 2. Precious stone, 3. Charity

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers and a small diagram of the grid.