

Czech Religious Seek Recognition

Prague — (RNS) — Priests of the Byzantine Rite Catholic Church in Slovakia and members of Czechoslovakian religious orders have asked the government for rehabilitation. Under the previous Czech administration, the Catholic Eastern Rites were made part of the Orthodox Church. The religious orders were suppressed and their members forced to take secular employment.

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"Out Of The Shadows"

What are you doing in the Church, for the Church? What are you doing for her mission, for the kingdom of God, for your salvation, and the salvation of your brothers in the society in which you live, in the world? Are you active? Are you apostolic? Or are you still hiding in the shadows of a passive, comfortable faith?

"In the body of Christ, which is the Church, the whole body, according to the functioning in due measure of each single part, derives its increase" (Decree on Laity). This is a very beautiful but tremendous truth. In it you clearly see that no one is useless, no one can be completely passive, no one can remain inert and insensitive in the life of the Church. Each and every one of us must do something for the Church in regard to the salvation of souls and the welfare, even temporal, of society.

What is that something? Where do you fit in? Primarily, you must start with yourself and your basic needs as a Christian to fulfill the mission of the Church in the world. Deepen your faith—Bring to the fore the truths of your faith, think about them, study them, so that they no longer remain dormant but are brought into harmony with your daily life. Expand your love! Not merely the momentary-emotional response to someone in need, but a generous effort to see Christ present within each person you encounter. Increase your awareness! Know your individual role and duties, whether family, social or professional and strive daily to carry them out according to Christian principles.

Secondly, you must reach out beyond the circle of your home and parish to encompass the whole world. By the nature of your Baptism, you are a vital part of that world, with all its needs, its desires, its sufferings, its hopes. Through the Mystical Body, you are linked to each and every man in it. You must, therefore, go to the aid of your brothers through your prayers, through your continued generous sacrifices. Few of you are called to direct missionary service, but all of you can embrace its spirit and foster its growth within yourselves.

With the constant strengthening of such foundations, new insights will dispense the shadows, new avenues of Christian encounter will open up and your prayers and sacrifices will have a penetrating impact on individual souls, on parish communities, on society, on the world.

SALVATION AND SERVICE are the work of The Society for the Propagation of the Faith. Please cut out this column and send your offering to Right Reverend Edward T. O'Neara, National Director, 366 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10001 or directly to your local diocesan director, Rt. Rev. Msgr. John F. Duffy, 50 Chestnut Street, Rochester, New York 14604



Sister Seraphine, center, cheerfully accepts checks totalling \$800 for the work of Holy Childhood School from the Order of Alhambra, Musa Caravan No. 25. Deputy regional director-Alphonse A. Salvaggio, far left, makes the presentation, accompanied by Daniel Tobin, grand commander, and Jack Murphy, historiographer, as Sister Branca, of the school faculty observes. The donation is part of a national program the Alhambra carry on to support schools for children with exceptional educational needs. Holy Childhood School is staffed by the Sisters of St. Joseph in Rochester

'Gaps' Cited in Catholic Best-Sellers

Cincinnati — (RNS) — Comparison of Catholic best sellers of the past decade, while indicating the change going on in the Roman Catholic Church, also shows some "embarrassing gaps," according to Father Leonard Foley, O.F.M.

Of the 281 books in the 10-year period used in his study, the Franciscan priest said "there is not a single best-seller directly treating the two greatest problems we have today: war and the racial situation."

"There are no books directly concerned with social justice, poverty, citizenship, political responsibility . . . There were only three books on marriage and family life, three on ecumenism, two on Mary, and four on youth," he noted.

Father Foley made his observations in the June issue of St. Anthony Messenger, published here by the Franciscan Fathers.

Conceding that "popularity is not necessarily an index of greatness, but it is a sign of the times," Father Foley said his study revealed a great deal about the nature of the Church in the past decade.

The great shift, he noted, has been away from religious fiction, biography, and lives of the saints to books which treat the more "weighty" topics of theology, religious psychology, scripture and liturgy.

Of books which sold 25,000 or more hardback copies, the following is best seller list for the decade:

Shoes of the Fisherman by

Morris West; The Edge of Sadness by Edwin O'Connor; The Day Christ Died by Jim Bishop; The Catholic Marriage Manual by Msgr. George Kelly; the Jerusalem Bible; Prayers by Michel Quoist; "The Dutch Catechism"; Catholic Youth's Guide to Life and Love by Msgr. George Kelly; That Man Is You by Father Louis Evelyn; and The Night They Burned the Mountain by Dr. Tom Dooley.

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Archbishop Digs Jazz

New Orleans—(NC)—In an ecclesiastical sort of way, Archbishop Philip M. Hannan is a swinger—he digs jazz.

Preaching to a standing-room-only congregation in St. Louis cathedral at a Mass for deceased jazz musicians, the New Orleans archbishop asserted: "Jazz was the gift of the Negro to suffering humanity and its value, I think, has been greatly underestimated."

It's a "vehicle for the expression of the hopes, the sorrows, the trials, the joy, the frustration of many peoples, though the language was that of Negro origin," Archbishop Hannan said.

Through jazz the spirit of fulfillment and expression "even transfuses songs of suffering into joyful experiences," the prelate said. He added: "Regardless of the words, 'St. Louis Blues' and 'Basin Street Blues' convey a spirit of joy."

Pilgrimage Planned To Auriesville

Rochester branches, Catholic Central Union of America and National Catholic Women's Union, plan a pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Martyrs at Auriesville on June 9.

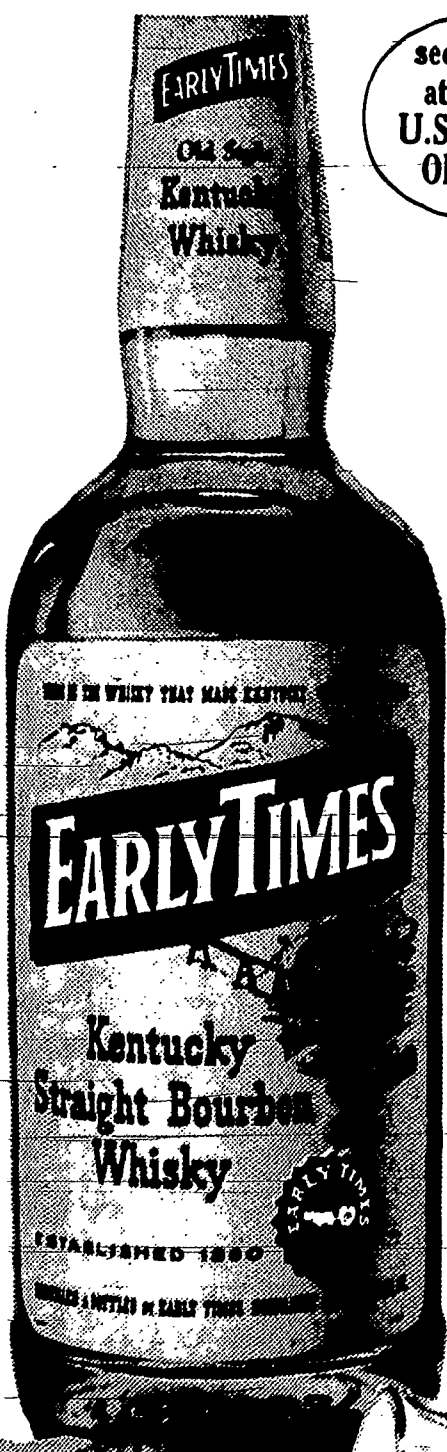
A chartered bus will leave from St. Joseph's Business School and Franklin Street at 9 a.m., and return about 9 p.m. William Roeger, president of the Central Union, is in charge of arrangements. Mrs. Loretta Lehner is president of the Women's Union.

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