

Old Ideas in a New Way

San Antonio—(CP)—A Theatre of the Absurd refers to seemingly unintelligible plays...



Brother Alexis and pupu

The 38-year-old Brother, who recently toured the country on a Rockefeller theatre-study grant...

Titled "The Investigation—Of All the Lonely People," Brother Alexis' work is a combination of Peter Weiss' "The Investigation," which is an account of the Nuremberg trials...

It's a play that borrows heavily from the Theatre of the Absurd, or, as Brother Alexis prefers to call it, the Theatre of Silence...

Under Brother Alexis' direction, the play makes use of old newsreel films, a rock 'n' roll combo, six movie projectors working simultaneously...

Brother Alexis, who is also serving as associate director of the HemisFair film festival, said he prefers to offer plays of the Theatre of the Absurd school to his students because these plays "have more to say to modern man."

"I'm tired of the typically-structured high-school play, the 'well-made' play," he said, "because this isn't a well-made world."

Plays with easy-to-see "messages" don't sit well with Brother Alexis, either. "I don't like that word, 'message,'" he said. "As far as any play is concerned, it can have 249 meanings. You get the meaning you deserve. Nothing in the world has one meaning."

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Pope May Visit Here

Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, Bogota, is expected to be visited by Pope Paul during his stay. The cathedral, as big as the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris, is carved out of rock salt 300 feet underground in the ancient salt mines of Zipaquirá.

Christian-Marxist Dialog Praised

By E. B. DUARTE (NC News Service) The USSR is bringing to American audiences... "But why must it always be against somebody?" he asked. "We are the two super powers in the world. We have many things in common. We are both 'have' countries. We have both achieved economic greatness. We have a stake in preserving peace."

India Plans New Abortion Permits

Trivandrum, India—(NC)—An official bill legalizing abortion up to the first two months of pregnancy is to be introduced in the next session of the national parliament.

2 Women's Groups Laud Encyclical

A cablegram expressing gratitude for "Humanae Vitae" and pledging "filial love and loyalty" to Pope Paul VI has been sent to His Holiness from the Catholic Central Union and National Catholic Women's Union.

Deaths

Sister Angela Rehberg, former supervisor of nurses at St. Mary's Hospital, died Aug. 13 in Baltimore.

She had retired to Villa St. Michael in Baltimore last May, in her 50th year as a Sister of Charity. For the 17 preceding years she had headed the pediatric department of Providence Hospital, Detroit.

Sister Angela was a graduate of St. Mary's nursing school and of Niagara University. She leaves one sister, Mrs. Frederick Prall of Babcock Drive, and several nieces and nephews.

Mrs. Noonan A requiem Mass was celebrated Aug. 14 in St. Louis Church, Pittsford, for Harriette J. C. Noonan of 3435 East Ave.

Mrs. Noonan was the twin sister of James P.B. Duffy, a former Supreme Court justice, and widow of William T. Noonan, who was president of the old Buffalo, Rochester and Pittsburgh Railway Company. She died Aug. 12 after a long illness.

Survivors include another brother, G. Paul Duffy of Watertown; two daughters, Mrs. Francis P. Beattie of Greenwich, Conn., and Miss Jane F. Noonan of Rochester; two granddaughters and one great-granddaughter.

Not Far from Bogota Shanty-Town Parish

Bogota, Colombia—From the tarpaper shanties on the hillside of Los Laches, the poorest of Bogota's 105 parishes, the splendid pomp of the 39th International Eucharistic Congress seems remote and alien.

The Rev. Ineas Jimenez opened this parish a year ago. He celebrated their first Mass in a wattle shelter of split bamboo and mud that was blessed as the church of San Jose de los Laches.

It is perched above a plunging ravine, like most of the shanties that cling to the hillside where a few milking cows and herds of goats compete for clumps of green grass.

Well beyond the last of the city's paved streets, the people of Los Laches have a spectacular view of the capital. From their heights, they look out across the red tile roofs and church spires of the old city to the new skyscrapers and boulevards that end in El Dorado Airport, where a jetliner will bring Pope Paul VI here from Rome.

"There are 4,000 families living up here, but the archdiocese acts as if we didn't exist," Father Jimenez, a swarthy, energetic priest whose shoulders bulge in his brown cassock.

The metropolitan curia, which governs the archdiocese, has incurred great expenses to prepare for the Pope's visit, including a million dollars to renovate the cathedral on Plaza Bolívar.

The cathedral was reopened Thursday, the Feast of the Assumption, with an elegant high Mass celebrated by 45 priests led by the Most Rev. Anibal Munoz Duque, Archbishop of Bogota, Knights of the Holy Sepulcher, a layman's order of medieval origin, formed before the altar wearing white robes embossed with a red cross.

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THE PRO

Some Questions

By Barbara Ward If, as the Sixties come to an end, the war in Vietnam is negotiating a solution and, at the same time, America and Russia begin to reduce the cost of their frantic technological competition in nuclear arms, it is least conceivable that America's budget, running now at a level some \$80 billion a year, may drop by some \$30 billion over the few years.

Admittedly, this is speculation. Yet any such potential resources for the purposes of construction must be considered seriously. If citizens have no views, if they have made no judgments in advance of the first and obvious consequences of a fall in arms spending, the reduction of taxes, the pain of which with the members of Congress have increased taxation in 1968 are the measure of the pleasure with which they remit them in the wake of re-spending on arms.

But is this obvious outcome enough for Christian citizens? take the average American family—some \$7,500 this year—per cent surcharge is about \$75 two-child family. The moral principle which the remission of this surcharge (larger tax rebate) prescribes for each Christian family is basic, very simple one.

Given that every family can afford a dozen desirable ways to spend the money for family purposes, it is absolutely certain that the surcharges should have priority over other family expenses.

A LAYMAN

Goodness Done

By Joseph Beig To say that veneration of the saint is outmoded in our modern age is to say that the honoring of goodness, self-sacrifice and heroism is outmoded. More, it is to say that there is no more any point in praising God for works, among the greatest of which are the spiritual wonders produced by his grace.

If I cannot honor the saint for his virtue and for the inspiration ample they have shown me, how can I honor my own father and mother for their devoted goodness?

And yet I have not heard that has repealed the commandment honoring parents. As Chesterton remarked, if we follow in the footsteps of modern philosophers, we would ourselves in a situation in which could not so much as say "you" for the saint.

For myself, I say "no thanks" to that kind of thinking. No, I give me more joy than the gratification of my senses, and then I follow—especially to those whose goodness soars far above and beyond the call of duty.

The word "saint" after all, means "good." And the person whose heart is not stirred to veneration by the presence of extraordinary goodness is spiritually ill.

A splendid definition of sainthood was given to us recently in a meeting of "The Worship of God in the Secular Age" adopted by the assembly of the World Council Churches at Uppsala, Sweden.

'Distinctive Sign'

Is Hallmark of Christian, Pope Says

Castel Gandolfo—(NC)—The distinctive sign of a Christian is the mark of true Christians, Pope Paul VI told thousands of visitors at a general audience Aug. 14.

The Pope spoke on the meaning of being Christian and the influence of grace through the sacraments. He pressed concern for many Christians today who fail to reflect "the impression" of the face of Christ.

"It is strange to see how Christians today behave themselves in a questionable manner in relation to the supernatural condition of life," the Pope said.

"On the one hand, they seem to minimize the concept of sin, of moral law... as if they were sorry, to free the conscience from excessive fears, from raising and fantastic scruples, and giving sufficient weight to the which sin produces."

"On the other hand, they attach to themselves the guidance of Holy Spirit, conferring on their thoughts and their own conduct gratuitous and often falling short of security and infallibility. It is a fashionable tendency."