

The Absence Of God

(Continued from Page 6)

anxiety and remorse in the soul of an atheist but the panting of the lungs for the very air which one has denied it?

It is only an anthropomorphic way of saying it, but Rilke, in one of his poems, expressed the loneliness for God by comparing it to a child sleeping in a room above his parents. During the night the child awakens, is frightened by the darkness, and because he is alone, he drops a book from the table, shakes his bed, and kicks his foot against the wall. The parents hear and bring the child a glass of water. Reassured, he falls asleep. That child is man in his loneliness. He may rebel against God, shake his fists against heaven, write books embalming His Divinity, and yet all the time he is lonely.

Atheists are not as happy as they boast, and who should know this better than Nietzsche, who wrote to his sister: "A man of spiritual depth needs friends, unless he still has God as a friend. But I have neither God nor friends." About the same time he wrote: "Doubt devours me. I have killed the Law, and now it haunts me as a cadaver haunts a living person. If I am not more than the Law, then I am among the damned souls, the most damned."

After he had finished Zarathustra, he fell into a melancholic depression. Meeting an astronomer near Florence, he said to a companion about the visit: "I wish this man had not read my books. He is too good. My influence on him could be very disastrous." Just a few years before he died, he wrote to his friend, Peter Gast: "I live constantly under the cynicism of danger without an answer to the question of life." Nietzsche's life could very much be like the story of the angels, who lived with God on probation and then shouted, "Non serviam," and rebelled to a place prepared for them. Nietzsche at the age of twelve wrote: "I saw God in His Splendor in a vision." Now in his last years he was like one of the fallen angels, not able to leave alone the Flame of Divine Love.

Those Who Once Had the Faith

The absence of God in those who have the faith is not the same as in those who never possessed it. If we call the Presence of God in the soul "White Grace," then the loss of that Presence may be called "Black Grace." It is still a grace — a negative kind of grace by which God's finger stirs the soul, making it so uneasy in its excentration from Him. Like a planet out of orbit, it burns itself out in an inner gnawing and anxiety.

A "fallen-away" eventually becomes more lonely on the inside than the ego-on-the-pedestal who never loved anyone but himself. "Black Grace" sometimes makes the soul more conscious of God

than "White Grace." A soul which surrendered the Church becomes like an unfaithful husband whose infidelity was discovered by a devoted wife: he knows that he crucified her love.

"Black Grace" works like a hot coal in the hand: the coal is the negation and frustration of the hand. If the nature of the coal was the same as the nature of the hand, there would be no pain, no contradiction. When there is a break with God, the soul always comes out wounded.

Periodically in history, there comes a day when the "Twelve" becomes the "Eleven," as the New Testament describes the Apostles before and after the defection of Judas. The Church is living that moment now, when the clergy and faithful who abandon the Table of the Lord boast how much they are at peace, and "Now I am so happy." So was the prodigal when he left the "institutional" Father's house for the "charismatic" clinging to a citizen of the foreign country.

But why do they boast of their peace? Do happily married couples arouse neighbors to shout: "We are in love"? Do healthy men write books: "I am healthy"? Is it not the sick who talk about health, and is it not in time of war that one hears most about peace?

This rationalization of their brokenness with the Fullness of Christ in His Church, is "Black Grace." God does not let them alone any more than He left Nietzsche alone, who wrote "Anti-Christ" and then went mad seated at a piano shouting the name of Christ. Fallen-aways may deny air, but they breathe it; sinners may refuse food, but they hunger. The flight from God would not be so swift, were it not for Infinite Love from which they recoil. The Hound of Heaven hunts them; they go down to an inner hell, but He looks in pleadingly. They run, but it is because they are pursued by the Pursuer. They spread their wings to fly, but He is the air. They swirl in the deep currents, but He is the Life-Line. The Absence of God is the negative side of His Presence. He will not leave them alone.

(Next week the historical and theological consequences of the absence of God will be discussed.)

Edward Sheen



Richard Mancini makes up Tracie Pedrone for the Blackfriars production of "The Royal Hunt of the Sun" slated for May 9-11 at the Nazareth Arts Center at 8:30 p.m. The play tells of the expedition of the Spanish under Pizarro to the land of the Incas.

WANT ADS

Phone 454-7050

ANNOUNCEMENT
ANTIQUE SHOW and Sale at St. Paul's Episcopal Church Parish House, East Ave. at Wick Park Bldg. Rochester. Twentieth Anniversary Year. 27 Dealers, Thurs. and Fri., April 24, 25, 11 a.m. - 10 p.m. Food Service available 11:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

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Deaths

Mrs. Pohli
A requiem Mass was offered April 18 in St. Augustine's Church for Clara Pohli of 29 Westgate Ter., who died April 15, 1969.
She is survived by one son, Richard Galtzofner, eight grandchildren and a brother, Paul Spencer.

Mrs. Allison
Marie Allison, wife of William Allison of 128 Marlborough Road, died April 15, 1969. The funeral was April 19 at Our Lady of Good Counsel.
Survivors include three brothers, Edward and Lawrence Sharkey of Rochester and Thomas Sharkey, Chicago, also several nieces and nephews.

WEEKLY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1. Babel
6. Following
11. Think
12. Fargo
13. Code
15. Afternoon
16. Mail
17. Franchise
19. Compass
20. Asterisk
23. Arrange
24. Matter
26. Small
28. Ascend
30. Board
31. Loose cloak
32. Scope
33. Piece out
35. Nail
37. Chief
38. Unhappy
41. Medieval tale
44. Metal fastener
46. Similar
48. Lasso
49. Liquid
50. City in Illinois

DOWN
1. Caesar's garment
2. Gem stone
3. Export of France
4. Fennant
5. Female of the ruff
6. Exclamation
7. Doom
8. Blind
9. Girl's name
10. Legal
14. Wander
18. English
19. Streetcar
21. Point
22. Goddard
25. Singing
27. Handle
28. Renown
29. Mesopotamia
30. Contour
27. Ferrous
29. Island of Napoleon's exile
32. Good
36. Discard
37. Manufacture
38. Turf
39. Small quarrel
39. Singing voice
40. University officer
41. Cutting tool
42. Axilla
43. Hole in casting
45. Trouble
47. Stammering sound

Answer

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50

BOWLING

Our Mother of Sorrows
Mr. Pollanen 621-216; Bill Sullivan 576-244; Don Carlin 567-294; Bob Lewis 556-291; Herb Erbe 542-188; Jane Carlin 491-187; Louise Kondoff 476-165; Eleanor Miesch 446-166; Jane Postle 424-142; Dot Wohleben 421-164.

Catholic Men's (North Park)
Richard Pesak 706-267; Frank Alaimo 658-266; Frank Miller 644-222; Bob Cummings 648-285; Bob Grashof 643-241; Ed Stevens 531-225; Nick Schwab 629-439; Frank Lippa 618-221; Paul Creek 614-214; Mauro Di Grana 614-218; Henry Subeck 614-210.

Our Lady of Mercy Mixed
Mini, Donahue 498-189; Lottie Melanson 471-171; Anne Harris 474-172; Norma Faulkner 459-186; Joyce Court 456-183; Brian Court 50-246; George Court 589-208; James Kuhn 597-204; Andy Kuhn 556-216; Charles Horn 553-205.

Saint Helen's Ladies
Maureen McConville 540-194; Maryanne Reber 524-198; Gerri Stummel 514-202; Helen List 474-173; Betty Agostinelli 468-188; Rene Ventrelin 467-170; Rose Marcello 462-166; Marge Scheffer 456-171; Paul Goodlin 451-161; Kay Georger 461-170.

Rochester Catholic Women's
Lorraine Chappell 492-178; Rosemary Crane 491-187; Margaret O'Brien 468-186; Mary Spiker 452-173; Margaret McArthur 430-169; Margaret Schum 429-168; Jacqueline Noble 427-157; Marie Derlich 415-161; Lena Capithorn 411; Delores Schakow 406.

Sacred Heart Men's
Frank Maslyn 631-233; Will Harmes 596-224; Tony Mesolella 593-217; Jack

Our Mother of Sorrows
Tute 573-234; Don Frank 554-223; Bob Gotham 555-206; Jim McKee 532-303; Tony Schrader 531-201; Dick Daley 505-202; KC Dowling 496-200.

Saint Michael's Ladies
Ed Clarke 692-205; Dick Lechner 661-205; Jenny Murray 553-236; Bernice La Crose 538-202; Will Harmes 658-208.

Saint Margaret Mary
Agnese Mermel 461-171; Martha De Vito 446-173; Barbara Ukaha 446-151; Rita Stadler 436-172; Anne Heberger 432-153; Betty McBride 408-165; Lee Lichtenberger 402-191.

Saint John's West Ladies
Betty Van Allan 532-186; Pearl McViech 471-184; Florence Thesing 469-192; Peg McParlane 466-163; Paul Detto 436-187; Kay Frederick 432-180; Rose Ferraro 424-147; Pat Lo Presti 420-161.

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Family Rosary
The Family Rosary for Peace program is broadcast each evening at 7 p.m. by Rochester radio station WSAW, WMOF-FM in Auburn, television cable companies Channel 5 in Hornell, Channel 8 in Elmira and 88.75 mc. in Corning. Those who will lead in recitation of the Rosary this week are:
Friday, April 25—Rev. Mr. William Endres of St. Bernard's Seminary.
Saturday, April 26 — Mass will be celebrated.
Sunday, April 27—Hugh McDonald of St. Boniface.
Monday, April 28—Jerry Serafine of St. Joseph's, Penfield.
Tuesday, April 29 — Eugene Wolf of Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

Notre Dame Club Increases Award
Scholarships awarded by the Notre Dame Alumni Club of Rochester will be increased by one-third in September, according to John G. Curran, club president.
The new rate will be \$400 a year. At present, four area youths, one in each class at Notre Dame, are receiving \$300 each toward their tuition.
Scholarships are awarded on the basis of financial need, academic achievement and extracurricular activity. Any male high school senior who lives within 50 miles of Rochester and has been accepted by the University may apply.

WATCH FOR THE MAIL

THE HOLY FATHER'S MISSION AID TO THE ORIENTAL CHURCH

Do you read our mail? ... If so, you'll receive in the next week or two our invitation to help the Holy Father do what Christ did in the Holy Land. ... In Bethlehem, for instance, at the Pontifical Mission Orphanage our Sisters are giving a home to 60 little Arab girls who otherwise might have been lost forever. ... In Jerusalem the Pontifical Mission office provides clothing (collected in the U.S.A.) to the aging and the crippled, babies, the destitute—as well as food and medicines (more than 1,000 children daily receive their only hot meal). ... Refugee boys are becoming tailors at the Salesian School in Nazareth, automobile mechanics at the Benedictine School in Lebanon. ... Blind girls learn to "read" in the Gaza Strip, deaf-mute boys begin to speak at Father Roberts' home near Beirut. It's all possible because you support the Pontifical Mission for Palestine. ... What is the Pontifical Mission? The sister agency of the Catholic Near East Welfare Association, it's the Holy Father's self-help relief agency for 1.5 million Arab refugees, begun 20 years ago by Pope Paul himself (then Monsignor Montini) after the first Arab-Israeli War. Your own mission of mercy in the Holy Land, it serves Moslems as well as Christians on the basis of "need, not creed." ... If you do not hear from us this week, why not write to us? We'll tell you how you can help.

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APRIL 30 — ST. CHARLES, GREECE HALL, MAIDEN LANE NEAR DEWEY

MAY 1 — ST. MARY'S, CANANDAIGUA HALL, N. MAIN ST.
MAY 6 — SHERATON HOTEL, ROCHESTER EAST AVE.
MAY 8 — SHERATON HOTEL, ROCHESTER EAST AVE.

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Fight f
Editor:
In the Courier-Journal Paul Brayer pleaded the process of re-ordies in religion, "the philosophical lie our support school."
Re-examination-premises, and of I to meet current, certainly by a C.I. is strange, however who begins his p-gious literacy by to Vatican II, doe in the perspective has to say about
Since this lack been apparent in letters dealing with, I think it is re-examination by from the "Declar Education" of Va from Trant's, tw
Here are some-
p. 6: "Among struments the scl importance... Pa primary and inal duty to educate t enjoy true liberty schools. Consequ power... must parents are truly cording to their schools they want
p. 9: The Cou Catholic parents, trusting their ch schools wherever sible and of suppo to the best of th cooperating with cation of their chi
Mr. Brayer ree look at the practi problem; namely, not attempt any as to how popular education courses
My own estimat years, participat Discussion groups; Group; and semin Catholic Parish, I will appeal, on a less than 10% of
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COA
Consist
By JAMES (NC New
Vatican City — swell the ranks Cardinals to an-members, plus tw series of ceremo April 28 to May 1
In a closed, so-sistorsy," on April ficially will annou new cardinals, al had already been month earlier. T others, created "i secret-and-will-r Pope decides to n
Among the ne Church from every Pacific Islands w United States w Archbishop John troit, Archbishop J St. Louis, Archb Cooke of New Yo Wright of Pittsbur George B. Flahiff peg, Man.
Following the c will preside over Sistine Chapel du present the new, l let biretta. The l cap with three rid replaced the one red that, the synt Cardinal for centu
In a final publi first of May, the J Mass in St. Peter with the new c with rings r sion.
The ceremonies consistory that P