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The Medal in Lindbergh's Pocket

By MADELINE McNAMARA,
With ROBERT F. McNAMARA

Remember how the late — and great — aviator Charles A. Lindbergh, in the weariest hour of his pioneer transatlantic flight, found a St. Christopher medal in his pocket? Deeply touched, he asked himself, "From whom did this gift come?"

I was present at the takeoff, and I know the answer. If it is too late to tell you, General Lindbergh, it is not too late to tell the world.

The giver of the gift was one Katie Butler.

Like most residents of Long Island in May 1927, we teachers at Glen Cove High School were excited about the current transatlantic air-race for the \$25,000 Orteig Prize. Who would be the first to take off from the Long Island airfields on the non-stop trip to Europe? Levine and Chamberlin? Byrd? Or this new "dark horse," young "Slim" Lindbergh, who in the past few days had suddenly captivated America?

After several days of false alarms, we learned on the rainy evening of May 19 that Lindbergh would be leaving in a few hours. Several of us teachers piled into a car and whizzed over to Roosevelt Field. With

Forty-nine years ago this date, on May 19, 1927, an event began that many still believe was the most exciting personal undertaking of this century — Charles A. Lindbergh's solo flight across the Atlantic Ocean. This first-hand account of that takeoff and a surprising fact about the trip was written by Madeline McNamara, in collaboration with her brother, Father Robert F. McNamara of St. Bernard's Seminary, some months before her recent death.

us was Katie Butler, a gentle woman of indefinite middle age, who was a friend of one of our party.

The crowd at the field increased rapidly once the news had spread. It was a wonderful crowd — a cross-section of Americans, united in one great experience. Even though it had been raining off-and-on for hours, nobody minded. The only person I saw leave was a tipsy gent in evening clothes who zig-zagged his way up to the barrier. "When does he take off?" he asked the nearest policeman in a fuzzy voice. "In about an hour," replied the officer. "Sorry, I can't wait," said Mr. Topsy, who thereupon zig-zagged his way back to the highway.

Toward daybreak, there was a stir in our area. A sleek, expensive car nosed its way through the crowd and halted. Two men in crisp tuxedos stepped out

Continued on Page 2



Goose stepping Soviet soldiers change guard in Red Square.

Photo by Joan M. Smith

The Courier Visits Red Square

By JOAN M. SMITH

A journey to Russia is an adventure into Byzantine fantasies, medieval dramas and czarist tragedies. It is a look at the rich history of Vikings, Tartars, Greeks, Turks and how this mixture of nationalities and cultures molded 20th Century Russia.

Russia's heritage, one of grandeur and tragedy, has existed through centuries of violence, treachery and devastation. Ivan the Terrible ruled with an iron hand by creating a fearsome network of agents who were the forerunners of the secret

police; Peter the Great wrenched his empire from its eastern ways and westernized its people and their ideas; the revolutionary Lenin changed the course of history not only for Russia but the world.

All these forces endowed the Russian people with a complex personality, one of patient determination, yet also of "nichevo" (you can't do anything about it, so don't bother me).

At first meeting, the Russians appear intimidating and aloof.

Continued on Page 14

Pope Urges Vocation Prayers Increased Vocations And Letters Asked

Text, Page 3

Vatican City (RNS) — The whole Church is a "missionary" church and the work of evangelization, or proclaiming the Gospel of Christ, is the "basic duty of all the People of God," Pope Paul affirmed in a message marking Vocations Sunday.

The papal message called for prayers for an increase in vocations to the priesthood, the religious life, and the diaconate, and for growth in charismatic lay "ministries."

"Within the Church," said the Pope, "there is a oneness of mission, but the roles, the ministries, the services are many and different. There is a variety of vocations. And within this variety, the ministry of the (ordained) priest stands out above all. It is the priest who is at the very heart of the marvelous and never-ending venture of evangelization."

"To be consecrated to God" the pontiff said, referring to the vocation to the religious life, "is the most noble calling, which may be offered to all — men and women — without any distinction."

"(The call) lies open to the generous zeal and well-known energy of men and to the particular sensitivity and inventiveness of women."

Pope Paul said "a special role" was reserved for deacons, married and unmarried, within the Church. "Deacons," he said, "are ordained to serve the People of God, in communion with bishops and priests, particularly in the ministry of the word, teaching, exhorting, evangelizing, as they walk in the truth of the Lord."

The Pope continued: "In this variety of callings, we cannot forget the laity who are called precisely to collaborate with their pastors in the service of the ecclesial community by exercising a great variety of ministries, according to the grace and charisms which the Lord is pleased to give them."

For the fifth year, Pope Paul VI has asked the world to dedicate one day as a World Day of Prayer for Vocations. All priests, sisters, brothers and lay people are asked to concentrate this Sunday, May 23, on prayer for increased vocations to the priesthood, sisterhood, and brotherhood.

Father Gerald Connor, diocesan vocations director, sees two things that all Catholics should do to help increase the number of persons entering the religious life. The first is to pray. "The whole community has a responsibility to pray," he says. The prayers should be not only for new vocations, but also for the seminarians and novices now studying. Father Connor asks those who are praying for the seminarians to write to them at Becket Hall of St. Bernard's and tell them. He

explains that the letters are encouraging to the seminarians.

Father Connor's second goal is to "establish a community that will encourage vocations." He hopes that prayers, and the twice-a-year reminders of the need for vocations help to keep people aware of the problem, and at the same time reach those who are trying to make decisions about their lives. No one can be "recruited" to a vocation, he notes.

For the first time in 10 years, the number of seminarians nationwide has increased. The Rochester diocese has 18 more seminarians than a year ago, and 18 more are expected in the fall.



Photo by Susan McKinney

Summer Farewell

Father Gerald Connor sees two Becket Hall seminarians, Stanley Hadsell (left) and Paul Kavanaugh, off for the summer.