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Eminent Dignity of the Poor

(Address of Pope Pius XII to a | beggar's mouth, is heard by all; by group gathered at Rome for the beatification of Jeanne Delanoue. Nov. 10, 1947)

In 1659, in the presence of Vincent de Paul, "Father of the Poor," then already in the evening of his life, Bossuet delivered a famous sermon in the Chapel of "Providence." The echo of his words still reverberated when, on June 28, 1666, seven years too late, Jeanne Delanoue was born. Her contemporaries spontaneously called her "Mother of the Poor," as they named her home "Providence." Her life shall be the commentary, the living illustration of the title which Bossuet gave to his discourse: "The eminent dignity of the poor in the Church."

In what does this dignity consist? and how does it manifest itself, dear daughters, in the life of the Mother whom you venerate, and who is today resplendent in the glory of the Blessed? The voice of the poor is the voice of Christ; the body of the poor is the body of Christ; the life of the poor is the life of that Christ, who although rich, made himself poor, in order to enrich us by His poverty.

The Voice of the Poor is the Voice of Christ

The voice of the poor, that begging voice, penetrates like a sharp point to the depths of the heart. Wheever resists it knows well, whether he wills it or not, that he Christ. This voice of God, from the

each one walking the street. It speaks to the hearts of certain ones in a most tender and pressing tone, gently bidding.

"Give me to drink," says Jesus to the Samaritan woman on the stone at Jacob's well: and his request for a little water veils a more intimate request, a request for the gift of herself; it is a calling, and at the same time, an offer of the gift of God, of his living water which springs up unto life everlasting. To the saints, the servants of God, that moving voice addresses the decisive words: "Go, sell what you have, and give to the poor . . . and follow me." So Francis, the young worldling of Assisi heard it; and his life was conclusively guided and trans-formed by it. So too our newly beatified heard it.

Quite unlike her pious mother, and more concerned with her wordly interests than her soul's, she had been wholly occupied with the profits of her shop, which she opened on Sundays and feast days, just as during the week. Jeanne welcomed few wanderers except for the profit which she knew how to extract from them. She drove away the poor who hazarded a knock on her door with these hard words, as soon as she saw them: "I have no bread."

Yet one day, in a better moment, she lodged a wanderer, Francoise Souchet, for a few sous. "God," closes his ears to the very voice of Francoise tells her puzzlingly, sent me this first time only to

(Continued on page 3)



"If the rich do not work they steal"-Bishop de la Rive

Redemption and The State

By ROBERT LUDLOW

"There were the giants, those re-nowned men that were from the beginning, of great stature, appri-in war. The Lord chose not preneither did they find the way of knowledge. Therefore did they perish" Baruch 3: 26 & 27.

It was among certain of the Old

Testament writers, and particularly the prophets, that there was an anticipation of the mind of Jesus Christ. The prophets scolded the peoples because of Speaking of appeals, our fall aptheir departures from the ways peal has not brought in enough to that the Lord had ordained in the pay our accumulated bills and the beginnings of time. Since then only thing that cheers us are the words of the Holy Father concerning the poor contained elsewhere

nothing." Wallace. After five minutes' spiel ringing in my ears today: "Loose 4. Communists believe With the cost of living what it is, my listener blurted out "But that the Communist Party one told me that Wallace is for knows how to assure birth control," to which I replied, the production and distribution that are broken go free and break 'Please don't interrupt me." And asunder every burden." The words mainly the poor and the generous. in an orderly manner on I went boosting Wallace for according to a predesigned of todays epistle pulled me to So we pass on these names for the next few minutes until I was think about Peter, the Negro saint. plan. money, clothes, food. fully satisfied that I had won a That great hearted man who was 2. WHAT FASCISTS SAY THEY Fr. K. S. Michael Dindigue, S. I., supporter for my man. The next so fired with divine love and BELIEVE Mettupatti, India, says there is a day I learned that my not so apt clearly comprehended the force of strike among the 6,000 tannery pupil voted for Truman. 1. Fascists believe the Church's teaching on the Mysworkers he serves. The children Criticisms in a national economy. tical Body that he sold all he had Within a few days after the are starving. for the protection and taking on the form of a slave October issue appeared I was the of national and private interwent to live with his brethren the Fr. Joseph Cavagna in Pakistan, recipient of innumerable letters. writes to thank our readers for galley slaves. I begged him to interests. well, there were at least twenty. cede to God for mercy on those who help in erecting a mud chapel. He 2. Fascists believe which bitterly attacked my opin-ion of Mr. Wallace. Even Westhad not yet the courage and love still needs help as the harvest in the regulation of industries to break through the morass of was poor. His address is: Fr. Cavfinger nails," he said. so as to assure agna, Bineedwar Mission, Dhamoir brook Pegler wrote in for a copy prejudice we swim and sink in a wage for the worker From France of the issue that supported Waldaily in regard to our Negro fel-P. O. Bogra Dt., East Bengal, India. and a dividend for the investor. lace. With much trepidation we low members of the human fam-Widow Frances Szabo Mary' any **3.** Fascists believe sent him a copy, sort of hoping fly. Suddenly I remembered that uccu 23 fsz 6, Budapest, Hungary, in class collaboration a few persons do cry out the truth; men like John Winslow that it would get lost in the mails (needs food). under State supervision. because we know Mr. Pegler is not 4. Fascists believe above using brassknuckles, black-Another Indian request from: Martin in Harpers August issue (Continued on page 3) (Continued on page 2) (Continued on page 2) (Continued on page 4) (Continued on page 2)

MASS PICKETING

CW and Strikes

The Catholic Worker has never advocated strikes as the ideal solution of the problems of labor. We have, however, frequently supported strikes; we have joined picket lines; we have helped man

soup and coffee kitchens for the benefit of strikers. All of these things were done when we were convinced that the measure of justice weighed in favor of the striking workers, and when we felt that the workers had exhausted all other legitimate- and peaceful means of trying to get justice done. We felt that non-violent striking was a justifiable Christian weapon to be used as a last resort; that frequently it was the only weapon workers had to use against the combined force of capital and capital-controlled law enforcing agencies.

T-H Law and Striking

Recently Irving Rogosin, NLRB trial examiner ruled that mass picketing, either violent or non-violent, violated the Taft-Hartley Law. He went

on to say that it "exceeds the bounds of peaceful persuasion and it is not privileged or protected as free speech." Every person knows that an unsuccessful strike is worse than no strike at all. There is a loss of prestige; a loss of the sense of solidarity among union members and a loss of faith on the part of the union members in their union to accomplish anything for them. These are just the things that employees opposing the strike are eager to accomplish. A token picket line which the Taft-Hartley Law allows and the banning of large lines will accomplish just these very things for employers. When six or seven hundred men should be on a line from a plant of thousands of employees and only fifteen or twenty are permitted, there will be an immediate sense of futility smothering the union members; nonstriking employees will not feel that many of the union are in favor of the strike and will not be encouraged to join it and in many cases will be confirmed in their lack of faith in trade unionism.

Act

Appeals

We have the opportunity now of repealing the Oppose This Taft-Hartley Act. From now until the time the new Congress is called into session, there should

Act be discussions on this vital piece of legislation on the part of both management and labor. Certainly the fact that it prohibits the use of a peaceful weapon and invalidates the right of the worker to see justice done is reason enough for its repeal. It could be suggested too, that labor, instead of insisting only on wages and hours and other immediate aims, should begin to insist that they take over actual plant ownership. Under the new Congress, probably the most favorable to labor in the history of the nation, we have the opportunity of beginning, as Peter Maurin says in this month's easy essay, to create "a new society within the shell of the old."

-JACK ENGLISH.

ON PILGRIMAGE By DOROTHY DAY

in this issue. He certainly encour-Our Friday night meetings have **1. WHAT COMMUNISTS SAY** aged us to go into debt in our servfrom painful experience how difstarted at 115 Mott street, and they ence when He forbade His Apos-THEY BELIEVE ficult it is to change people's ideas ice to the poor, using all we have tles to call down fire on those who begin at eight. The four speakers 1. Communist believe on any given subject. I could ourselves, first of course. last month were Shaemus Mcwould not receive His message. never persuade a single soul to that the capitalist system To our own appeal we add the Manus, Fr. Buckley, Fr. Crouzy And He brought to their attention follow my method of getting rid following, begging our readers to has reached the point and I. The first told of the story that despite their day to day aswhen it does no longer work. of a simple cold. My influence on sow what they can. Undoubtedly they will reap a hundredfold, if tellers of Ireland and held us all sociation with Him they yet repeople- was borne out very conspellbound with accounts of the tained the mind-set of the Old 2. Communists believe not materially, then spiritually. clusively on election eve. A poor well at the world's end and the that when the workers (Continued on page 4) simple, naive voter came to me, I used to think it a bit selfish fairies in Ireland who were the come to the realization eight hours before the polls opened, angels who took neither the side of the downfall of capitalism to sow in order to reap, but after and asked my advice on a choice of candidates. This person was all, it is under our Lord's direcof Lucifer or Michael, and so for they will no longer tolerate it. ST. PETER tion. If you sow sparingly, you will their penalty were banished to the 8. Communists believe completely unable to decide-so earth. We realized on hearing Mr. reap sparingly, He said, commendthat the capitalist class he told me. Would I please decide ing this kind of sowing. And St. John of the Cross said, "If you **CLAVER** McManus that we too had a storywill resort to all means for him? I smacked my lips and teller of a kind in our midst, Slim that may be in their power gloated over the very definite op-Borne who can hold visitors spellwant to have everything, desire to maintain its existence. portunity of swinging a vote for The strong sound of Isaias keeps bound with his hyperbole. His stories of The Catholic Worker one is truly giving one's. life movement and its leaders, (and not bundles that oppress; let them blood these days in sending alms of complimentary nature) go on for to the missions. Our readers are hours and hours. He has the kind of voice St. Anthony must have had, since people can hear him a block away. He could easily address ten thousand without a microphone. But then I may be exaggerating a bit myself. Fr. Buckley's theme was why men work, the kind of work they do, what work is for, and emphasized that the instrument used, man, should be taken into account. "One does not use a fountain pen to hold up a window, or a watch hand to clean one's Fr. Crouzy is a Jesuit from France, a friend of Fr. Perrin who wrote "Priest Workman in Ger-many," and he told us something of the life of the worker priests,



Reprinted from an earlier issue.

preference for Wallace for President, I was expressing my choice of candidates. And I didn't expect anyone to dash out and vote for Wallace after simply reading my one paragraph support. I know

many things had been tolerated because of hardness of heart. Polygamy and war among others. And of this latter Christ has refer-



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On Pilgrimage

(Continued from page 1)

a the factories as mechanics, offer on the side porch when we woke 1p Mass in the evening at the home up. And one Monday morning at of some worker; and later eat with the farm this month we were nim and his family and talk with | awakened at four to greet Nancy groups that gather in the evening. Ott, Mary Thornton, Kay Bracken The subject of my own talk was and Mary's baby,-who came for a Love and Hate in the Modern flying visit and returned home after World, and of course that brought twenty-four hours. in a discussion of the use of force. We discussed compulsory military training with the French Jesuit also, and still do not understand why it has never occurred to the seminarian or priest to object to this compulsion on the part of the state. To this day there is no resistance to conscription, though as Fr. Crouzy pointed out, such conscription is against canon law.

Objectors

There have been many young students to see us during the course of the month, talking about the new draft law, what provisions are made for conscientious objectors, and how now it is up to the state to define what "religious belief" is. If the state acknowledges the validity of your religious conviction that war is wrong, then there is exemption. There has been no machinery set up for conscientious objector camps. It is either the army or jail.

Visitors

Many people take their vacations in October when they intend to visit New York, so I was glad to welcome Louise Mulherin from Augusta, Ga., who is working as dietician in a veteran's hospital there; Isabel MaCrae who was head of the Seattle, Washington, group during the war and Edith Mary Bown, also one of our Seattle friends, who did not come to the office, but who met us at Grand Central station as I was seeing Isabel on the train. Edith Mary is a wonderful pianist and accompanied Marian Anderson on her visit to Seattle. The former is here now to study and prepare for the ledge. concert stage. Her mother is one of the founders of the Martin de Porres center in Seattle, and her father is a longshoreman who has placed The Catholic Worker on many a ship sailing out of Seattle. I always visit the Bown home when I am there, and it is a big family, when he called, and Alan delighted ran flying up the street with "the

who live in the slums, go to work | knew whom we would find sleeping

The farm these days is brilliant with fall colors. There have been brisk days when walking was good and three of us took a hike over to the next highway, along Rock Cut Road to see a new neighbor, Eula Short and her father and two children who have moved into an old farm house there. We discovered the hidden lane that marks the end of The Catholic Worker property and if it were not that hunting had begun and we were afraid of being shot for deer, we would have explored it. Other days when we were tempted to go, there was the job of getting a field cleared of posts and wire from the tomato vines in order that John might do some ploughing. We are trying to trade in a bull calf of good pedigree for a drag plough for the tractor. There were negotiations going on when I left the farm last. Money is so scarce and our bills are still so high that we cannot afford some equipment we badly need. We did borrow a plough from a neighbor and one field was made ready for winter wheat, just a small sample patch it will be. There have been some delightful evenings in front of the fireplace burning some of the sycamore and pine the Oblate Fathers gave us and which Louis and John Burke hauled in the old Columbia. There are apples to eat, and molasses candy, and hickory nuts, and good books, and reading aloud and discussions of the encyclicals and the new translation of Genesis. Alan Bates is a beautiful reader and scholar and he is anything but dull in imparting know-

There are good days at Maryfarm, beginning with Prime at six thirty and Mass at 6:45. Thank God for Fr. Faley! Other priests come and visit, among them a Franciscan on his way back to China the next day, and it was Mission Sunday in giving him some language cards superior" panting after him.

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first dispossessed, and I thought that perhaps they might even have had to accept public hospitality as so many now do in New York. The night manager of the lodging house on 25th St. talked to us about the attempts of the city to care for transients and homeless. We saw only the first floor where supper was being served cafeteria style, and there were separate tables for the families. There were over three hundred there, women and children, since the men have to stay at the lodging provided for them on East Third Street. They are so crowded at E. 25th Street that only upper berths are empty and it is hard for the older women to sleep there. There are no mattresses, only blankets on the springs. More quarters are being prepared down on East Sixth St. Even during the depression there were not these hoards of women and children, homeless and with no prospect of finding a home. It is the Marshalsea of Dickens over again.

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ST. PETER **CLAVER**

(Continued from page 1)

upset the apple cart of complacency with his vivid story of the Hickman case in Chicago. Hickman, a negro from Mississippi, lured to the big city by higher wages came with seven children and no place to live. After desperate months he finally settled for a rat nest on the fifth floor of a condemned tenement to the tune of 60 dollars a month. Later faced with eviction by an absentee landlord, he refused to budge. He had made a vow to God to protect his beloved children. One night the tenement went up in flames and four of his children were roasted alive. He then murdered the man who owned the building after the court had discovered that kerosene had been smeared all over the building by a stooge.

"A Stone'

Turning a corner of the street my reverie was interupted by a stone hurtling through the air two inches from my head. I watched as two boys about eighteen years old; one white 'and one colored were hurling stones at each other from a ten foot distance. The still air; the golden haze and mysterious peace of the land of autumn twilight; the shine of green laurel on the roadside and the tight little fist-like brown leaves under my feet all pieces of the beauty of God were crushed and distorted by the invasion of the madness of the Prince of darkness that hung over these poor children of ignorance living through hell on earth; for as St. John of the Cross says "Heaven is Love," Hell must be wherever there is Hatred. And the crowd watching; not moving; just lazily watching and waiting and, the stones kept coming. All at once the "superior" white boy picked up a stone the size of a cabbage and with a wild cry hunged it at the colored boy who ducked and

Mott Street (Continued from page 1)

jacks and razor blades in his shoes ; munism. I thought the following when he decides to take someone over the coals. After answering the first letter I received, I decided to bunch all the other replies in this column, since I neither had the time nor the incentive to answer each and every letter that I received. All the criticisms can be listed under three headings. First, if Wallace took office he would turn over the White House to Joseph Stalin, since Wallace is supported by the Communists. Secondly, Wallace is a Red himself. Thirdly, Wallace is a materialist.

Same Charge

Just twenty years ago this month, Al Smith, a Catholic, ran for the presidential office against Herbert Hoover. Smith had a very good chance to win, since he appeared to have more qualifications for the job than did Hoover. But he too lost out since the similar charge was leveled at him that he would turn over the White House to the Pope. Everyone knew that Al was a Catholic, and he admitted to be a member of our religion. Whereas Wallace states that he is not a Communist and no one has proven him to be one. It is quite obvious how stupid it was to level that asinine charge at Al Smith twenty years ago as it is today to level that identical charge at Wallace. If the Communists supported Wallace it doesn't follow that he will carry out their program, since Wallace is basically opposed to Communism, as I will prove from a pamphlet he wrote entitled, "The Price of Freedom." (Published by the National Home Library Foundation, Washington, D. C.)

Proof

In his pamphlet, "The Price of Freedom," Wallace treats of Capitalism, Democracy, Religion and Schools and Government. In dealing with Capitalism he substantiates his ideas by quoting four paragraphs from the Papal Encycli-"Quadragesimo Anno" by Pius XI. In a chapter on Religion he quotes the Scholastic Philosophers to back up further claims of his. The following are a few quotes I ran across during my reading of this pamphlet: "It is up to religion to tell both capitalism and democracy what is the chief end of man." Regarding the State, "The Nazi and Communist concept of the State is such as to glorify the State beyond any possible service to the individuals composing the State." Also, "Nearly all the prophets of the Old Testament preached the doctrine of social justice. Jesus Christ in His Sermon on the Mount preached the doctrine of social justice in its most extreme form. Karl Marx preached it in a distorted form because he was too much under the influence of British economists and scientists of the early nineteenth century." Throughout the pamphlet Wallace quotes Christ, St. Paul, and finally winds up his scriptural quotations with the fourth chapter of Micheas from the Old Testament. He states. 'Somehow it has always seemed to me that the final triumph of Davin is back in the hospital with

worth quoting. "Again, these questions: What is man? Where does he come from? Where is he going? Here they are again, always these same questions which are absurd, of course, and we know that they are absurd, but that is why we ask them. We envy the minds in which they do not arise-delicate, sophisticated, cultivated, trained in all the subtleties of analysis, but with one failing: they approach a problem, all problems, from the outer edge-if you can put it that way. They are the minds which the Ecole Normale produces every year and the Sorbonne too, and the Centrale, and Polytechnique, and all the other universities -minds which are doubtless very diverse, but have one common trait: a strange fear of radicalism, in other words, an eternal refusal to dig down to the roots. The Soviet mind is more crude—and for this I prefer it. The Communists are more brutal, but therefore more human. The Communists, as we have seen often enough, are not afraid of being ridiculous; whereas specialists in every field fear being ridiculous beyond anything else, and that is why they take refuge in specialization. Meanwhile, the world falters on. The world stumbles along as best it can, and the specialists leave it alone, for they say they are incompetent outside the limits of their own specialization. But the Soviets intend to remake the world."

Bourgeois

And Ramuz points out further the obligations of the Articulate. "Articulate people who express themselves aloud, the articulate few who write and can thereby demonstrate that they exist and have opinions, these people are guilty of having divided humanity into two parts: and because they have the luxury of leisure, they concentrate upon that small part of humanity which also has the luxury of leisure. But the Communists concentrate upon that part of humanity which has no leisure at all. The articulate few have turned their backs-out of good manners and social conventionality, somewhat as though they were in a parlor-on questions which they do not need to ask, on those very questions which people without leisure are compelled to ask. But the Communists ask these necessary questions. The articulate few have been far too indulgent and considerate of bourgeois thinking -and by "bourgeois" I mean people with incomes, living in security, who never have to ask themselves whether society is badly organized since they owe their security to the way it is organized; who never have to ask themselves whether injustice in that society is not the rule rather than the exception, since they have the best reasons for not thinking that society is unjust." All this from a non-Catholic although a deeply religious man, if there is any contradiction.

Joseph Davin

Seventy-three year old Joe peace, democracy and justice was a broken hip this time. While Joe never more beautifully portrayed was convalescing from his last than by the prophet Micheas." And trip to the hospital for pneumonia

full of great talent. Bill Byan, an old Milwaukee and a book on the Chinese lanfriend, who fought in the Spanish guage, to refresh himself with on scene had then another burden of civil war and spent two years in the boat, and Dave Mason had a shame on the broken backs; per-Sandstone penitentiary for his good time showing him the Chinese haps violent racial anger conscientious objection (political, not religious) to the last war, visited us for a week on route from Maine to Chicago. Since we were activities. mailing out the paper in the city

Lodging House

I forgot to mention that during Isabel MaCrae's visit to New York. I took her for a tour of the East side, including the Municipal Lodging House for women and children. At a recent conference of Fr. Oesterreicher on the New Testament, one of the comments he made on the sojourn of the Holy Family in Egypt was that they must have lived in the Jewish quarter in a section like our own lower East side. There were slums

Those Negroes watching that and typewriter he had been working hatred will grow in that little over for some twenty years, in neighborhood; and what poison between jobs and Catholic Worker will fester from the scarred mind of that young Negro who ran for his life. Walking further up the street a group of young white boys passed me, one of them spitting out "I hate niggers." One feels the urge to take

sides; to shout out at indifference and injustice; Yet one stops and thinks: will they listen? and the boy, the victim, was gone; he was the one to talk to. And then the idea of Albert Camus in "The Plague" came to me; should we then not take sides either with the oppressor or the oppressed but take the third way of peace?

MARY HELEN ADLER.

he goes on to quote Micheas. I he took a spill on the curbstone could go on and quote numerous other statements which would sent to Columbus Hospital up on prove that Wallace is unalterably opposed to Communism, material- be in that hospital bed for quite a ism and totalitarianism, but you would probably be more satisfied readers will drop him a line. The if you read the book yourself.

Communism

We are still playing the popular American game of Red baiting. And we are still refusing to get at the roots and eliminate the social injustices which are the causes of communism. I hope that each one of our readers will obtain a copy of the book, "What Is Man," by act number of individuals we feed, the late Swiss poet and novelist, C. F. Ramuz which is published by Pantheon Books. The title is indicative of the contents of the book guired as to what precaution we and Ramuz has some very important comments regarding Com-

across the street and had to be 19th street. Since Joe is going to stretch we do hope some of our address is as follows: Joseph Davin, Columbus Hospital, 227 E. 19th St., N. Y. C.

Monks

Two elderly monks paid us a visit late one afternoon, this week and asked to be shown throughout the house. So we gave them a real clothe, shelter, and the annual turnoyer, one of the monks coughed, cleared his throat and intake against contagious diseases. Tom Sullivan

Minneapolis, Jehovah's witnesses, Negro Moslems and his friend George Collins. Francis Coyle and Tommy Hughes were along with us, all of us spell bound.

during his visit, I didn't get a

chance to talk to him until we

drove to Newburgh and then he

talked for three hours straight on

life in jail, the Dunne brothers who

were Trotskyite unionists from

And More Visitors

Pittsburgh people always arrive in the middle of the night. During in those days too, and the Holy the Summer retreats we never family was poor. They were the

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Eminent Dignity of the Poor

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in the district by loud laughter. But at other moments, she assumes a majestic tone, to express with peremptory authority what the "voice" makes her speak. What voice? The voice of God, who speaks through the mouth of the DOGL.

Little by little, this mysterious voice invades Jeanne's heart more completely, awakening her conscience. She listens and answers, and falling to her knees, asks, "Is it then, my God, that you wish me to hear your voice through this simple woman?" From that day, the voice gradually becomes clearer and more urgent; the answer more docile. It is the call to the "way of perfection," and Jeanne feels rising to her lips the plea of Saul on the way to Damascus: "Lord, what wilt thou have me do?" Next, it is the call to a complete renunciation of both herself and her all for the poor.

Continuing to obey, she empties her eupboards to carry all they contain to the poor. That evening, on her return from the charitable trip, she hears, through the mouth of Francoise, the "voice," telling her that her alms have appeased all the complaints of God against her, and that the veil of forgetfulness has descended upon her past, hiding it forever from the eyes of the just judge.

Jesus said to the Samaritan woman, "If thou didst know the gift of God, and Who it is who says to thee 'Give me to drink,' thou, perhaps would have asked of Him and He would have given thee living water ... the fountain spring-ing up unto life everlasting." And Jeanne in an ecstasy of three days and three nights, one of the most marvelous to be read in the annals of the saints, drinks in long draughts of the heavenly water.

When she regains her senses, her way of life is laid out; she knows, she sees clearly what the Lord expeets of her; charity to the poor, and an endeavor toward the highest perfection by complete indifference to herself.

The Body of the Poor Is the **Body of Christ**

We have all read, more than once in the golden legend of charity, some of those wonderful accounts, in which the Saviour, after being aided in the guise of a beggar or a leper which he had assumed, appeared in the most pleasing splendor of his glory. Bodily symbol of a yet greater and more beautiful spiritual reality.

As the shepherds sought Jesus on the heavenly night, when they were sent to Bethlehem by an angel of the Lord: "You will find there an infant . . . lying in a manger," so Jeanne too, on the

learn the way," and then departs., terested or sporting, ask where she This woman, obviously ignorant, a strange wretch, of herself utters only unintelligible words, greeted ders and accept it without understanding. Jeanne herself understood; she was not deluded. No special attraction, she later confessed, drew her to help the needy or to interest herself in their troubles. "But when I hear Jesus Christ say in the Gospel: 'Whatever you have done to these least life. of my brethern, you have done to me.' I shudder to deserve this re-

proach on the last day; 'I was hungry and you did not give me to est ... ' It is this which drives me to all that I undertake, all that I do."

That she does? Why, it is what anyone will do who sees in the poor what she saw: Jesus Christ. She treats them, whatever they are, as she would have treated Jesus Christ in person-with the same devout eagerness, the same unaffected tenderness, the same reverent devotion.

For the same reason, nothing restrains her; no matter how many come to her, nor how great their distress, or vast their needs. It is Jesus and because it is Jesus there can be no thought or refusing them. At whetever cost, food and shelter must always be found, there must always be a place for Him. There will be squeezing, there will be expansion, the debts will grow: what does it matter?

"My God," she said, "these are your debts; you will clear them when it seems good to you." And the immeasurably rich Father of the divine Poor Man always repays the debts contracted by His Son. Unforescen aid comes from without: from an unnamed point; the most insurmountable barriers give way by themselves; bread, clothing, money, seem to grow in her hands.

How to keep up with a work growing without respite?-she had only her own two hands. Vallant partners brought her theirs, and thus a new Institute, which the ecclesiastical authority soon approved, and the people spontaneously called Providence; and a little later, Great Providence.

At the death of Jeanne Delanoue, the Congregation of St. Anne of Providence had already achieved a considerable expansion. Over it, as over all religious families, the revolutionary storms passed, but without destroying it. Since then, zeal and charity have had to face relentlessly many different trials, in consequence of persecutions, wars, crises of all sorts. Nevertheless, continuing piously and developing the work of your Mother, you labor in a great number of houses. always, like Her, at the service of the poor.

The Life of the Poor Is the Life of Christ

The identification of Christ with word of the poor Francoise Sou- the poor, such as we come to speak that in order to know the embarchet, messenger of the Lord, went of and to admire, is only a moral rassment that the poor knew who children lying shivering and almost favored and qualified representa- How far all this naked on the ground with their tives of God, so that God considers world! And how much the world parents, all wasted by sickness and as done to Him what we do for the needs the sight of these foolish poverty. She cleans and straightens poor. But this could not suffice saints to know and to appreciate up the hovel as best she can; then for his love of preference. He takes food and clothing there in wished to realize a perfect iden- to have a glimpse-in its superabundance. Several times a week tification; genuine, complete, carshe may be seen traversing the ried to an extreme, even to a physitwo and a half miles which sepa- cal identification. So He became rate St. Florent from her house, as man, He became flesh to dwell thought of poverty for itself. rate St. Frorent from her house, as among us, why He became poor to As for you, daughters of such a take upon Himself all the troubles Mother, what shall we ask her for Passersby look with surprise at of poverty, "that He might become merciful;" and He did thus fully, task of charity; only recently she so that His life was above all the was a little vain and very avari- life of the poor, so that all the clous. Some admire her conver- poor, certain-in the sufferings, anguish and humiliations of poverty-to be understood by Him, might learn to seek and to find in to see how long she continues in Him consolation, help and example.

what it means to be hungry and thirsty, what it means to see His modest garments divided and distributed by lot before flis eyes, and to die, stripped, with a crude cross for His bed, He who had been born in a manger of rough boards, softened only by a handful of

Eminent dignity of the poor; envied, it seems, by God, who wished to adorn Himself with it. Even before she fully understood this dignity, Jeanne Delanoue apprehended and perceived it intuitively. Seeing that Jesus aspired to it, she also aspired to it. Such is the secret of her dreadfully austere

The poor are hungry; she eats only three times a week. The poor take the left-overs from the tables of the rich; she eats scraps of bread left by the poor, and spoiled meat which none of them had the courage to taste. The poor are shabbily clothed and their rags are disheveled; she arrays herself in repulsive remnants, and tempers this mertification only because of obedience. The poor are embarrassed at being seen in their wretched clothes; she appears, despite her natural revolt, in church in the most outlandish garb. The poor are ill-housed and sleep on cots;



dressed, sitting in a chair with her head propped against the wall, or crouched up in a narrow box-a child could not have stretched out in it-which she calls her manger. The poor beg; she decides to try

DAVID (A Story of Love)

By WILLIAM GAUCHAT

Bill Gauchat has charge of Martin de Porres House, 2305 Franklin Ave., in Cleveland, and Our Lady of the Wayside Farm in Avon, Ohio. Here is the story of one of his littlest quests.

told us that almost casually. A he said it so indifferently, week of life, perhaps (a day maybe) but not a month. Sometime that January, a spasm, a convulsion, a slight cry in his sleep, death would come like that.

He was six months old. The nurse who wrapped the last blanket about him told us, "He can't seehe is blind; can't hear-he is deaf: can't feel-atrophied; water pressure on the brain-hydrocephalous; lesion of the spine-spinal bifada;" (there was a lump larger than a baseball, full of fluid, soft as a balloon, ready to break.) Dorothy got violently sick when we got home. I cried bitterly, the first time since I can remember . . . We thought of our three beautiful girls -and David . . . waiting for death. The first evening he was with us

I made the sign of the cross over him—his dull eyes followed the motion of my hand. "Dorothy, he can see!" Of course, he could. The children verified that the very next morning, the way children will . . . He chuckled at the antics of a torn teddy-bear. He loved it.

He grew into our hearts-instead of sobs and nausea, he was the Christ-Child in the manger. He became beautiful.

After two weeks or so he

in the co-operation

of employers' unions

and workers' unions.

1. Socialists believe

2. Socialists believe

3. Socialists believe

use

profits.

4. Socialists believe

1. Democrats believe

Democrats believe

to become richer

3. WHAT SOCIALISTS SAY

THEY BELIEVE

in a gradual realization

in the social ownership

and the means of production

under democratic management

between two economic systems

the system of production for

and the one of production for

of a classless society.

of natural resources

in a transition period

in freedom of the press

freedom of assemblage

4. WHAT DEMOCRATS SAY

THEY BELIEVE

freedom of opportunity.

in the right of the rich

freedom of worship.

`in universal suffrage

universal education

and distribution.

David came to us last winter- We called the doctor who attended to die. The doctor and his parents the birth. "Isn't he a mess?" And

> David pulled through that spell, and the next one, and so many more . . . but each time farther apart.

He could see, he could laugh, and he could love!

He was our boy . June came and his parents took him. The house was empty. He had been the center of it for so long . . . we never realized it unitl he was gone.

Remember, we'd say afterwards, how David used to laugh, when Daddy came in from a trip to market and say, "How's my boy?" And so many other things like that.

And we used to remember when we'd question "Why?" . . . Why, but always unspoken . . . A broken, maimed, boy child, in pain, doomed to die, why, God, why? ... The unspoken question in our eyes as we paced the rooms those nights his shrill voice protested . . .

The sense of loss we experienced when he was gone gave us a clue to the answer. Six months later we saw him again and his parents. David had learned to talk a little -and his mother and father had learned to love him. That was the beautiful thing

There is no love without the wouldn't take his bottle. He sank cross, and no cross without a vicinto a coma, broken with little- tim. And whether we be on the wails. His temperature, 105. It cross or beneath it weeping, there lasted seven days ... we called his is Christ, and sorrow shall be parents: "It is probably the end." turned into joy.

Easy Essay

(Continued from page 1)

- and of the poor
 - to try to become rich.
 - 3. Democrats believe in labor unions
 - and financial corporations. 4. Demorcrats believe
 - in the law of supply and demand.
 - 5. WHAT THE CATHOLIC WORKER BELIEVES
 - 1. The Catholic Worker believes in the gentle personalism of traditional Catholicism.
 - 2. The Catholic Worker believes in the personal obligation of looking after
 - the needs of our brother. 3. The Catholic Worker believes in the daily practice
 - of the Works of Mercy. 4. The Catholic Worker believes
 - in Houses of Hospitality for the immediate relief
 - of those who are in need. 5. The Catholic Worker believes in the establishment of Farming Communes
 - where each one works according to his capacity and gets according to its need.
 - 6. The Catholic Worker believes in creating a new society within the shell of the old with the philosophy of the new.

sion, and praise God for it; others take her for insane; others finally, smile, a little sceptical, and wait her exemplary zeal, which they think a mere flash.

How far all this is from the true wisdom, or at the very least natural splendor-of the eminent dignity of the poor and of poverty, for this world shudders at the you? That the power of her intercession with the heart of God, and the power of her example on your hearts, will replenish her spirit in you, heirs of her solicitude for the poor and her love of God, who for our love became poor. Confident in this desire, We paternally give to you, to your In-He knows from experience what stitute, to all who are dear to you, it means to be cold, to have no and especially to your beloved And to those who, whether in- place whereon to lay His head, poor, Our Apostolic Blessing.

BOOKS **Christmas Cards**

ON PILGRIMAGE by Dorothy Day 175 pages, 115 Mott St., New York 13. DECENTRALIST BOOKS, Chesterton, Belloc, Gill David Hennessy, Stotler's Crossroads, West Virginia.

ST. LEO SHOP, ST. BENEDICT'S FARM, Upton, Mass 15 cards and envelopes \$1.00

WM. and DOROTHY GAUCHAT, Our Lady of the Wayside Farm, Avon, Ohio., 20 for \$2.00

JULIA PORCELLI, 197 Hester St., New York 13, 10 cards for \$1.00

SISTER MARY of the COMPASSION, O.P., Blue Chapel, 14th and West Sts., Union City, N. J.

BETTY CLENDENNING, Martin de Parres Farm, McKean, Pa. unpainted, 12 for \$1.25; painted, 12 for \$1.75.

CARLOS and MARY COTTON, St. Lake Shop, Collegeville, Minn. 25 for \$1.50.

Redemption and the State

(Continued from page 1)

what spirit you are of."

The distinctive note of the New Dispensation was that of nonviolence. As Christ rejected the temptation of Satan to become a great earthly ruler so did He reject the means of force that earthly rulers use to perpetuate their power. And as Christianity does not stop with the individual but goes also into society and by a kind of indirection permeates it and transforms it so is it true to say that as society becomes Christian so will war cease and that it is the obligation of all who realize this to refuse participation in war as they would refuse to participate in anything that was contrary to the spirit of Christ. And it can be stated categorically that war at any time is contrary to the spirit of Christ. Are the crusades to be mentioned as disproving this? They failed as St. Francis predicted they would and you have only to read St. Bonaventure's life of Francis to know the circumstances of his prophecy. Is Joan of Arc to be cited to disprove this? You have but to read Book two of The Ascent of Mt. Carmel by St. John of the Cross to encounter the reasons why any private revelation which contradicts the spirit of the gospel should be rigidly disbelieved. Or Father Parenti's THE MYSTICAL LIFE to see that St. Joan did in fact misinterpret the voices who indeed spoke to her of liberation by death but she invoked them as having spoken of liberation through military victory.

Death

For there is no escape from this argument, there is no way to get around the fact that the way of Christ is the way of pacifism. That we are not called on to judge other peoples and arrogate to ourselves the role of vengeance. "Judge not that ye be not judged" was given to us as the norm of our actions, so that we cannot escape the argument by pointing out that Christ drove the money changers from the temple. He did so in the role of judge, a role we are specifically forbidden to assume. Nor did He kill and the attempt to justify war by this example is as far fetched as to try to justify slaying force in the body, nature which an infant because it is sometimes necessary to spank it. If we could but resign ourselves to die rather than kill we at least into physical and moral, as regard would have opportunity to prepare for death without having to answer for those who went beyond at our instigation and who had not this opportunity. How can we deny that this is the Christian way, how can we deny that it is better to follow this way than to defend ourselves by killing others? For quite some time this was the accepted teaching of the Church, so much so that it was incorporated into canon law as obligatory on all those vowed to perfection. Now we are coming ties. In our egocentricity we justito realize that the world is in such fy it all by reference to the dechaos that it can only be saved as fense of ourselves and our people. all Christians and men of good will We overlook that the primary inheavenly Father is perfect

Dispensation "you know not of | way) at least the means used in modern war are intrinsically evil and that to counsel people to participate means counselling them to commit at least material mortal sin-at this time then is it not in order to implore that the Holy Father, the Vicar of Jesus Christ, condemn recourses to the sword as did His Master and point out the duty of all Catholics to follow

in the pacifist way of Christ? For we have been redeemed in Christ and by that redemption there has been given to us possibilities that go beyond what man was capable of before the Fall. The Christian outlook is not the pessimism of the Right; it is more akin to the hope of earthly justice of the Left-except that there can be no ultimate perfection and no final settling of things this side of eternity. But it is not only our bodies and souls that have been redeemed in Christ, it is all creation. It is the supernatural that brings harmony back, the harmony lost by the fall. That brings it back between the soul and the body and nature. And inasmuch as this does not take place, as this harmony is not evident, then we know that it is our fault and that the possibility of it exists and that it is our continued rejection of it that keeps things as they are. For does not the Church sing of "the happy fault," the happy sin of the original transgression only because a yet higher life is possible in the redemptive love of Jesus Christ. Was it not that happy follower of Christ, St. Francis of Assisi, who demonstrated this harmony of the body and the soul and nature? Who loved man and nature in Christ, who saw all things as the expression of this love, as samples of divine attributes.

Harmony

As always it is in apparent con-tradictions that the Christian lives. For he finds this harmony by transcending nature, not by imitating it. Just as he finds harmony with the body when, through grace, he controls it with reference to its eternal destiny-when the body acquires dignity because it is used for God rather than for sin. And all these things are together -the soul which is the life giving enters the body to become part of it - all are redeemed together. That is why the separation of evils man, is such an artificial and unreal thing. Why it is absurd to speak of the evils of war as only physical and of no consequence in the face of moral evils? The evils of war are all moral evils, they are the sins we commit against the bodies and souls of our fellow members in the human family. They are the sins we commit against redeemed bodies and nature, for we use the elements of nature to prosecute these atroci-Fhat war h inge d cord an

would be held in common. This, which is the economic goal of Communism, is a desirable goal, a good and Christian goal.-it is -the expression of love in society. And it is possible only to the degree in which man utilizes the supernatural. For it means harmony, and only in the supernatural is there harmony, in the natural is discord. Such harmony will come only from transcendental values, otherwise it becomes a tyranny as it has indeed in Marxist society.

The Christian should desire to perform personal and social actions that are meritorious. Purely natural actions can have no merit attached to them, even though they may be good in themselves. For we can do nothing of ourselves to merit the supernatural unless we proceed in grace (which is a supernatural affair). Our actions have merit only in Christ and because of Him. Having then this possibility before us, we are surely guilty of treating Christ lightly, of placing small value to the redemption if we do not look forward to a society which will utilize the supernatural, whose sociology will be a supernatural sociology, whose economics will be a supernatural economics. For all will be informed by the spirit of Christ. It is surely demonstrable that our societies, founded as they are on purely natural grounds, have proven inadequate. That they have fostered injustices and have discord as their prevalent note. That discord has been canonized in capitalist society. That it is quite inevitable in capitalist society and that no amount of preaching can do away with this discord until, for the love of Christ, acquisitive class society is abolished and the Christian aims of Communism realized. If there is collaboration with an exploiting class we do not lessen the tension, we increase it. For we help to prolong a system in which class collaboration means the continuance of a proletariat for whom gains are only a bread and butter variety. Man does not live by bread alone and that is why man cannot live in capitalist society, cannot live in any real sense of the term.

Capitalism

Of course the Christian does not expect perfection short of eternity. For, paradoxically again, though he is redeemed, though greater possibilities lie before him than ever before, he has yet in him the discord that came from original sin and the effects of which persist. But it should be our aim to strive towards the lessening of this, it should not be our aim to deliberately look aside from the supernatural and proceed as though it were not possible to inform ourselves and society with Christ. This we do when we make our program that of expediency. When, for prudential reasons, we uphold capitalism because (so it is argued) at least the capitalist does not interfere with our religion. We forget that the materialism and practical atheism of capitalist society is that which sets the tone of the world into our children and that capitalist society by its indifference to God, by its lack of conscience, is a subtle and creeping enemy. The all christians and men of goudt is realize that rational conduct is conduct in accord with the call of be the aggressor. We overlook what be the aggressor. We overlook what all men to be "perfect as your killing does to the one who kills. rooted in Christ, will the proletariat find redemption. It can hardly find expression economically in half hearted reformism, in New Dealism. That is also why the program of groups like the Association of Catholic Trade Unionists is of so little avail. They refuse to face reality, they refuse to see that an acquisitive class society can only become Christian by dissolving itself. That the answer lies in personal and social revolution and that, ways of violence having demonstrated failure, it must be a revolution in non-violence.

Appeals

(Continued from page 1)

Father Angelo, O.F.M. Cap. Atlas through her Association, "siamo K. A. Pokhra, Azamgarh, U. P. con voi," via Liberta 26, Palermo, India. He is starting a mission Sicily. there.

From Florence, Italy, comes a letter of gratitude from the Poor Servants of the Mother of God, and they still need help. Instituto Santa Reparata Via Santa Reparata Florence, 95, Italy.

Clothes for orphans, mostly boys needed by: Schwester Regina. St. Mario-Joseph Walsenhaus, Ahrweiler 1 Ahr Rhineland, French Zone, Germany,

Mr. George Schulz, Esseneistr 8, Dortmund, Westfalen, British Zone, Germany: needs food parcels to help poor families.

.St. Xavier's College, Ranchi, India: needs books, on either science or arts, English literature, history, economics; second-hand or new. Also any apparatus for physics, astronomy, chemistry, geology, etc.

Help sent to Fr. E de Meulder, S. J., care of this same college in Ranchi, would be greatly appreciated. He has one of the most progressive of Indian missions. He has been a personal friend of thousands of Indian farmers whom he has tried to save from loan sharks through Catholic cooperatives and farmers' leagues. He fought the British government for land for his farmers and brought hundreds of unscrupulous landlords to court on behalf of his DOOL.

Another request for help comes from Fr. Gregory, O. F. M. Capu-chin, Director, S. K. Trade Union, Gail Road, Mangalore, South India.

A letter came in last week from Mrs. Pietro Leone, about her work for the homeless children of Palermo, Sicily. She can be reached Hungary, Europe

Herr A. H. Marich, Reit im Winkl, Postfack, Bavaria, Germany, American Zone, who is a D. P. from Hungary, wishes to send, pictures in return for food, clothing and soap. Fr. P. S. Antonisami, Batlagundu,

Madura Dt., India, is working among what are called "criminal tribes," three of the lowest castes, who have neither land nor property of any kind and live by stealing. He has seven villages to take care of and 1,200 Catholics among them.

Fr. William Garcia, of St. Joseph's orphanage Liceo 17, Guadalajara, Mexico, writes and begs for money. Food and clothing are impractical to send as the duty on incoming things is very high indeed.

Sister Clare Marie, Sisters of the Most Precious Blood, Parkgatania, 1a, Helsinki, Finland, can always use help.

And as for help at home, Helen Marconyak, of 653 Meldon Ave., Donara, Pa., would like books to start a Catholic library in town. Only Catholic books, however.

Elaine Todd is starting a house for children in Washington, D. C., and needs help. Her address: Mary, Queen of Hearts House 1240 Fourth St., S. W. Washington, D.C.

Joseph Long Sinsheim-Elsenz (17 a) Sidlerstrasse 220 Baden, Deutschland, U.S. Zone Europe

Ary Laszlo Csepel. Mentoallomas. Pest.m. Tancsics Mihaly u. 80

The Pope to Farmers

Continued from last issue

the present conflict between town and country; it shapes completely different men. And the conflict grows worse in proportion as capital forsakes its noble mission of furthering the good of society in far. each of its component families and trespasses within the rural world itself or otherwise involves it in similar misfortune. It dangles gold and a life of pleasure before the dazzled eyes of the land worker to induce him to desert his holding and to squander in the townwhich more often than not has nothing but disappointment in store for him-his hard-won savings and not seldom his health and strength too, his happiness, honor and very soul. Capital hastens to make its own the holding thus deserted, which thus becomes no object of love but one of cold-blooded exploitation. The soil, that generous nurse of town as well, as of countrysides, produces now only for speculation, and while the nation starves and the debt-laden farmer sinks slowly

all the productive possibilities of This then is the inner reason of the national territory should be be present conflict between town developed in healthy proportions allowing for give and take. Had this fundamental truth been kept to, opposition between town and country would never have gone so

Farmers

You farmers certainly desire no such opposition; you desire each part of the national economy to receive its share, but you also wish to preserve your own share. Hence a reasonable economic policy and a healthy juridical order cannot but lend you their support. But your chief help must come from yourselves and your co-operative union, especially so in the problems of credit. Then perhaps the recovery of the whole national economy will proceed from the quarter of agriculture.

Lastly, a word on work. You farmers are with your families a working community; again, you make up a working community with your partners and associates; and finally you wish to form one great working community with all into ruin, the economy of the na-tion is exhausted in order to buy nation. This is in accord with God's and with nature's ordinance; this is the real Catholic conception of work. Work unites men in common service for the needs of the nation, in a common endeavor towards their own perfection to the honor of their Creator and Redeemer. Continue firmly to regard your work in its true light, as the contribution of yourselves and, your families to the general economy. You may then justly claim a sufficient return from it to live in a manner that will do justice alike to your human dignity and to your needs of the mind. At the same time you must recognize the necessity to link yourselves with all those other vocational groups who work for the various needs of the nation; and you must give your consent to the principle of social

Ma

Норе

that you cannot attain to the harmony of the supernatural by pat-This attitude of the primitive terning society or individual life Church has become obscured. Aristotle, Plato, Mohammet, econ the discord that exists in man and nature as unredeemed. There clesiastical materialism, have all can be no escape from the concontributed to this. It is, of course, a mistake to appeal to the clusion that war is the triumph of primitive Church against the auunredeemed nature and that the Christian who participates in it thority of the present living engages in war against the super-natural "He that is not with me Church. But there is no heresy when the Church today is silent to point out this tradition and to is against me." beg that it once more be consid-

Communism

supernatural brings concord. And

ered an integral part of the Christian message. That, unless it It is only by reason of the supernatural that there is any hope of is we will have compromised ouranything that would approximate selves before God and have lost the respect even of the world Communism. Any hope that a through fear of which we have stateless society wherein each conthrough fear of which we have delayed utterance this long. Now, tributed according to his ability at this time, when surely the great and received according to his needs majority of theologians must see could be realized. A society in Kr. Boblinger Wurtt that (if they will not go all the which all but personal necessities Deutschland, Europe

Appeal

Zwickl Matthias Maichingen (14 a) Bismarkstrasse 21, U. S. Zone Kr. Boblinger Wurttemberg

at dearer rates the provisions it is forced to get from abroad.

This perversion of private ownership in farm land does untold harm. The new ownership has no love or concern for the plot that so many generations had lovingly tilled, and is heartless towards the families who till it and dwell upon it now. This abuse, however, does not spring from the institution of private ownership as such. Even where the State completely monopolises capital and the means of production, even there the interests of industry and export trade -- interests typical of the town-have the upper hand. The real. farmer then suffers even more. But in either case violence is done to the fundamental truth always upheld in the church's social teaching, the truth that a nation's economy is an organic whole in which peace.