Thoughts In Solitude
A Review
Robert Steed
Each new book by Thomas Merton whether it comes up to the standards he has set in his best efforts or not is always an event for those of us who have been enabled to understand to some extent and to value the spiritual life with his help.

Father Merton is not a philosopher, a theologian nor a scholar in any strict sense but he has been everywhere and has done everything and he knows all the angles. His knowledge of what makes modern man tick and his ability to present religion to many who would be frightened or revolted by its usual presentation, set him apart.

Just as the church canonizes saints in order to give us confidence, to show us that other human beings like ourselves have been able to make the grade, so Father Merton's superiors know that his life has been an inspiration to many and they keep him at his typewriter, which, if his own preferences prevailed, might gather dust.

His new book, THOUGHTS IN SOLITUDE (Farrar, Straus and Cudahy, $3) is one of his shortest and the basic criticism that can be levied at it is that it contains many generalizations and few of the insights that he throws out to the reader are developed sufficiently.

The author's main concerns have always been freedom, honesty and detachment. Man is free and while we must assist each other we must (Continued on page 7)

Walking and Fasting for Peace
Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel set for July feast-day.

Fasting and pilgrimaging certainly need no introduction or apology for those brought up in the Judeo-Christian tradition since they have been practiced and preached from earliest times by the "Prophets of Israel and the Fathers of the Church." These are the last resort when everything else fails as indeed it has failed.

The threat of nuclear destruction has so appalled and deadened the minds of most of us that reasoned prayer has become almost an impossibility; so the body must assume the task of imploring the mercy of God upon a world gone mad.

Ammon Hennacy is in the third week of a forty day fast which he will complete early in July. During the fast which is in protest against the United States' nuclear tests in the Pacific he is picketing the Atomic Energy Commission in Washington, D.C. Bob Steed will fast for 10 days and picket the A.E.C. here in New York beginning on the 20th of this month in conjunction with Ammon. The leaflet Ammon is distributing in Washington reads in part: "I am fasting, not to coerce or embarrass the A.E.C., but as a penance for our sinfulness, in bombing Hiroshima and Nagasaki; and for our continued testing of hydrogen and atomic weapons in our mad race for a supremacy that means only death."

In an age when totalitarianism has striven, in every way, to devalue and degrade the human person, we hope it is right to demand a hearing for any and every sane reaction in the favor of man's inalienable solitude and his interior freedom. The murderous sin of our materialism cannot be allowed to silence the independent voices which will never cease to speak. . . . In actual fact, society depends for its existence on the invariable personal solitude of its members. Society, to merit its name, must be made up not of numbers, or mechanical units, but of persons. To be a person implies responsibility and freedom and both these imply a certain interior solitude, a sense of personal integrity, a sense of one's own reality and of one's ability to give himself to society—or to refuse that gift.

No amount of technological progress will cure the hatred that eats away the vitals of materialistic society like a spiritual cancer. The only cure is, and must always be, spiritual.

Thomas Merton
THOUGHTS IN SOLITUDE
**CAMALDOLESE HERMITs**

A couple of months ago we ran a short story about the visit of two Camaldolese hermits, Brother Tomaso and Brother Bonaventura, to a little Italian restaurant on Chrystie Street and told our Friday night audience of these two holy men that the readers had written asking us their whereabouts and since we did not know at that time we sent the information to the Catholic Worker. The Camaldolese hermits were in Washington, D.C., and Montecalvio, Italy.

Also, I gave the idea for the weekend front page to our good friend Fritz Eichenberg that he was in so much trouble and he knew if I said a prayer for him our good friend Fritz Eichenberg would have his release. Which drugs bring this forth! A foundation in America After the death, a late word, since according to Fr. Eichenberg, who is in Rome, he will be released which no place can contain, that cells, but meet for the Canonical students but left copies of my autobiography in the city and university libraries.

In the Market Place

By AMMON HENNAY

To make clear the idea of fasting it is well to remember that Gerson and the Christian Frontiersmen tried to teach the Indian people to sacrifice their comforts, as he was doing to a greater extent, for the cause of Indian freedom. When he first fasted for two years he was neverデザイン for the content or accuracy of the translated text. Any related content is purely speculative and does not reflect the original document's intent or context.
Catholic Youth Finds a Cause

At the next meeting there were three additional people: Lee Caz, Louis Laverriere and Fred Fickel. Louis Laverriere had recently returned from a trip to New York, where he had visited Peter Maurin and had spent a work-day-study week and given the headquarters on Staten Island to Garret Elam, S.J., the priest who runs the Catholic Worker movement. Louis had first-hand information and was enthusiastic about our mission. It was immediately a sense of, not of what we could do, but of how we could work with a goal in mind.

We were as a group to head a new movement group were to lead the way toward the "new Christian social order," to which there was already great interest and work and dreamed. On the occasion of our discussions about Christian social reconstruction must be accompanied as did the group from other cities the Catholic Worker. We decided that we must practice the same things as the Catholic Worker and interested in the social order by visiting the hospitals, and we gave a Christmas party for the poor children.

In August we visited St. Louis for a visit to the Catholic Worker in New York. I wanted to get first-hand information about the usual group which was promoting an inner-city movement and the Catholic Church. I arrived at the Catholic Worker headquarters, 14 Charles St., and was welcomed with a hearty handshake. It was almost a month and it was one of the most stimulating and thought-provoking periods of my life. I found that I was devout and self-sacrificing for Catholic social action. I learned how each one worked according to his ability and according to his surroundings. I saw that there was a group who were fighting for something of the life of the world and that they were fighting for the people of this world.

This was a great cause, and I was interested in the garden for spring planting. Gradually others of the group who were interested in the farm came from New York and soon the place was a beehive of activity. We were happy and excited about the farm and intended to stay there permanently, but in the meantime something happened to St. Louis in the planning of my plans.

The group in St. Louis continued to hold their weekly meetings. We had another interest in the group and there was enthusiasm that the group was interested in the Guatemalan workers. St. Louis is the oldest Catholic social movement in the United States. This is unfortunate and does not seem hopeful for the future.
When I don’t write about the Hennessy family for a few months so many of our readers ask me about the children, the grandchildren, the people, that I must catch up on my report.

Hennepin, Vermont is in Westfieldstown township and they live on Westfieldstown Center Road near the old Westfieldstown Center. Their house which cost $6000 with its twenty-five rooms and two large sitting rooms is surrounded by a little patch of land with snowy fields and woods and barn and barn there are gables under snow, yard, porches and rooms and more attic. A gorgeous place for a family with eight children.

The Hennessy’s have now spent the best of the snow and cold months and found it very easy to keep warm down there, though on one occasion outside the temperature fell down to thirty-five below! There was much more snow than usual, it did not start until after Christmas, but it fell on ground which had not been touched by snow and it made deep mud in the spring. There was not enough snow to make it easy for the children to get out to play. They were not able to get out. The children missed no school. They walk a half a mile every day to school, leaving at seven thirty and coming home at noon, and stepping through the snow only. They have snow shoes and when there is snow, they march around the sheet iron stove in the living room, surrounded by a large fire in the fireplace and hot air furnace down in the basement, though Becky, thirteen, helps a lot with that. She does all the ironing and helps with the bookkeeping. Sue makes up for her brothers and sisters.

Two babies born to fellow workers recently, a girl, Susan, ninth child of John and Helen Cort in Boston; Christopher, first baby of Mr. and Mrs. John Cort in New York. Another happy event was the marriage of Charles McCormack and Agnes Bird in New York City and they were both living in New York in the presence of a crowded church of family and friends. Fr. McCly offers the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and Fr. Lefebvre officiates a Neapolitan rite with the Holy Name of Jesus on the feast of the Assumption.

The Lift and I were on our way to the conference at the bank in Wallingford and there was no school, and Eric and Nickie were fishing for trout in the lake, fishing in the rain. They had set up early in the morning and were breakfasting with them, and their fishing poles were hanging on the fence. They had walked several miles to a place at the edge of the woods where they had thrown back the trout and had half a dozen people fishing at one of the streams coming down from the woods on the other side of the lake. They had caught speckled trout which they brought home in a box, and one of which they had to throw back because it was too big.

They carried a ruler along with them to measure. Both boys live out of doors all the time, their fishing and the energies are well used up out of doors.

Nursing, Feeding

One of the neighbors came to see a few days ago and said that these two, first and second children, had strawberry and asparagus plants and grape cuttings to sell. They have had a goose farm and duck farm and have been working the soil at the pasture fencing and I could look out of the back kitchen window up the hill to where Dutchem’s breezeway and trellis with many squash and a small stone wall. How Tamar loves looking out there. "When I am old I could stay to help more—just to keep the house going while they go to school," she said. As it is, Tamar sterilizes water for the sheep and milk for the cows and wholesome, warm milk for the lamb and is up twice a night with him and once a night with her baby brother. She has a mother for more than a year. Tamar is a very strong, very vigorous girl, but children will be hard to get in a time of the shortage. Mildred Hatch of 8 Pine St. in Johnstown, Vermont, would send mothers and Tamar to take care of her children and nursing babies, and she would pay, and we have a little from this vassal woman in this issue of the paper.

But when it comes to helping Tamar, the girls help, Becky, Sue and Mary, and the boys too, though they are absorbing in fishing right now. I used to think John histórico too hard for a little boy, carrying coal and ashes down on Staten Island when they lived there, and whenever he baby-sat he was the hero denoted. All the children are a happiness. I remember how Marian, Rache of the Upton farm said that the first five were the hardest.

By DOROTHY DAY

THE CATHOLIC WORKER

On Pilgrimage

When I turn the page I will write about the extraordinary strength of people, that I must catch up on my report.

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Page Four
REALITY

What makes them climb the dusty stairs to the choked garret, as empty of today and the balmy odors of laughing flight as The Rent convulsed with manic cackling, in the middle of every wandering, eyes on sticks to avoid the flinching cornices of other men's constructions—while their houses go unheated? 

One morning up at Maryfan I came upon two deer hoof deep in mist that spread like silk among the pepper plants; they looked at me and three danced a little way away and stopped to look again, dear me! like three P.M. in late July.

I had no breath to move my heart beat so

Last March I saw the sun, dew, and blossoms unfold, chaste and stripped of all embellishments—but glorious! The feasts of June, the new oaks and hedges later on will all be treated with respect, but none for what they are.

Realify's the prize: simple as a pin, common as dust, neglected as an insane. —by John Stanley

STIMOTHY ST. PAUL

Letter from Irene Naughton

Sometimes the thought of one of you "up there" comes over me with startling vividness, and I feel I'm walking towards our house in Lindenhurst, L.I., listening to the tapping of the water from the Great South Bay, or I have a longing to go walking on the Lower East Side of N.Y. with Dorothy, or I think of you around the corner and up Helen's apartment for a long looked for visit.

But then I look around at the palm trees and the banana trees and the very ugly mannequins, Colors, and—here are Statues and Virginia coming in from a mission trip so gray and sunbaked that you wouldn't know that they are twenty-one and nineteen! They've been riding the big open "toboggan" mahogany floats for weeks in the sun and in the rain.

And there is young Johnny Martus returning from "pushing jungle" with the "bull".

And then I think how wonderful it is to live in the time when the last age of innocence is over and gone.

Quintana Rowe is a Mexican frontier territory where economic, social, and political problems are the order of the day; the health of the people is in the hands of a single doctor.

One of the answers to this new breathing of the Holy Spirit in our times is Bacalar,—project of Father Donald Hepler of Maryknoll, and the indefatigable agitator and writer to the poor Father Marshall Spong. There would not have been Bacalar, that beautiful name that so many of you know or will know soon.

In every age, our very young and romantic Holy Mother Church calls and challenges laymen to live in the spirit of the great apostles and saints of youth, in the eternal discovery of the "deepest, freest deep-down things", as Gerard Hopkins writes. Wherever we are, "the world is charmed, the night is our own, the day a dream".

The message we proclaim, according to the summary from the New Testament of Father Johannes Hofinger in "The Art of Teaching Christ to the Poor" (1932):

"In (quote part) His infinite goodness, the Catholic Church has called us to be united with Him in life and joy, scattering His divine riches. This is done through Christ, His Son—" He gave as a reason for us, as a reason for all, that we are the beacon of all those who are deprived of the grace of the Gospel, so that we may gain the kingdom of God and His glory, as Jesus did.

Joint heirs with Christ."

We are working out this new attitude towards Catechetics as a presentation of our social heritage. The Apostles and Paul wrote, "The integration of Catechism and Bible History with the Liturgical Year. We teach some of the Gregorian Chant antiphons in Spanish to the children.

We are determined to reach the one hundred and fifty or so children, by the time we are gone. The Bacalar community is the living breathing of the Holy Spirit in our time.

For this we have twelve catechists, some of whom we keep training about one lesson ahead of their children!

How to get these catechists to take over this more and more? As Father says: "Our aim is to work ourselves out of our work.

This is why we have begun the experiment of drawing a small number of people to a few courses in Bacalar, training them as catechists. The courses are one hour long, and each course prepares them for their "home work" in their pupil's in the two and a half months ahead. Each course includes some manual training to be used in their pupil's life, as hammers making crocheting.

You can see that all of this involves expense, considering the amount of tortillas, beans, and chile that these girls, and ourselves, can consume, and the fact that no one can pay more than an occasional bunch of bananas or something shifting his back and giving him some more to do.

And what could be more expensive, so far as building the body is concerned, than the mountainous sugar of cokes and cakes and white bread that we pile up in the grocery cart? As a general thing the most nutritious meats are the cheaper ones. We get much of our protein from fish, partly, because it is so inexpensive if one is willing to eat the cheaper species, and the fish are always glad to eat. When I go to New York, I always spend a little time looking at prices in the grocery stores; and almost without exception foods are less expensive than here. Especially in this true of the kinds of meat that Adelle Davis praises and that we eat almost exclusively.

It is hard for me to follow you to see that the poor people cannot afford to buy nutritious food. It is really a case of affording to me! I don't feel I can spend the money they spend on food. If I did I would not feel I could afford to eat for I am convinced partly by the book you have reviewed that I must feed my family for good health.

If you know of any one anywhere, who would care to read books about better health, better food, let do get that person know that I will gladly lend him books for no charge beyond the cost of post age to him (usually 12c on a single volume). We lend several hundreds of them every month, and all over the world. Many people stop by to me for not charging rental. That I will never do, because I am convinced that the books should be available to everybody, everywhere. I believe that every person who cannot afford to buy books without going without something he really needs, and I try to make it clear that there is no obligation whatever to buy a borrowed book. and believe me: I lend many hundreds of books to those who you write that the poor poe ple cannot afford to buy nutritious food. It is really a case of affording to me! I don't feel I can spend the money they spend on food. If I did I would not feel I could afford to eat for I am convinced partly by the book you have reviewed that I must feed my family for good health.

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Are You Unemployed? Read and Find Out Why—

This monstrous lie is still spread about that the Chinese is an example provider and every place and the cause to which I was not yet strong enough to un­
leash out with faith in God with a learned much from him. The lethargy of inaction and "study- lor, who had beat unemployment
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Solitude

(Continued from page 3)

Albert Camus

contributed that brought the ACTU into being back in 1959.

New Blood

One of the things that this article indicated was the 110new blood, the vitality, in these groups in the Church. We are happy to see that the new worker Air has young people like Stefano Johns, 19, and Bob Street, 25, to the work of the Church in the city.

Other young workers are preparing this summer, and we need them. Amazon and I, John and Robert


APPEAL

(Continued from page 4)

University Newman club, at the heart of the exciting Catholic life on campus. CW friends, at Iona college, at old St. Patrick's Mother Day commemorations breakfast, at Syracuse, Denver and Rochester, New York, and I am visiting Dorothy Clark, Cecilia Hugo, and Margaret Ganobick, on my way home from this Sunday night.

Bee Biding

To ride on a bus is my way of traveling. I am away from everyone, no telephones, no helicopters, no content with the road. I cannot read or talk to fellow passengers. I am free to reflect and relax and recreation, and a time for praying. It is certainly conducive to the pilgrimage spirit in the hermit spirit. In a strange way, and through the move, one still has time to break the inner barriers and get beyond repair. This is an

EASY SOLUTIONS

(Continued from page 5)

The Canyon Law was a part of the encyclicals of Pius XI and Leo XIII which states, "All persons of this age shall be based on selfishness. Business cannot set its house in order because business men are moved by selfish motives. Business men create problems they do not solve them."

THE MONEY-LENDERS

Uncle Sam does not believe in the gold standard. He does not believe in gold. But Uncle Sam does believe in the money-lender's able to borrow more than a billion dollars a day. And it is the money-lenders' role to make money for Uncle Sam into a hole. The money-lenders are first cities

on Uncle Sam's payroll. In fact, one of your money lenders is on the payroll in Palestine and Ireland. There were no money lenders on the payroll.

PAX BULLETIN

(Quarterly)

PAX (found in 1926) is an association of Christians who seek to promote critical and practical application of Christian principles to the question of war.

JUNE ISSUE

THE IDEAL OF NON-VIOLENCE

and John Day, O.S.B.

THE MORALITY OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

A. E. Doyle

BOOK REVIEWS: THE LONG LONELINESS (Dorothy Day)

DEPARTING THE "THOUGHT-ARTICULATED"; Recent comments by Archbishop Robert. J.C. de Madrid de la Rezola, and Catholic Alternatives.

PIRILGIMS FOR PEACE (Pax Christi)

John Gage
The New Aquinas Papers from BLACKFRARIUS PUBLICATIONS

No. 31 FAITH AND THE SACRAMENTS
P. F. Fransen, S.J., D.D., Ph.L. $1.50

No. 32 THE THEOLOGY OF THE DEVIL IN THE DRAMA OF CALDERON
A. A. Parker $1.50

750 cens each
PAYMENT MUST BE ENCLOSED AS AN AMERICAN BANK OR BANK CHECK

34 Blossom Street
London W. 1, C.

Catholic Youth
(Continued from page 6)
supporter of our work and has given a great deal to the cause ever since. We are very grateful to her and feel that, taken in the overall perspective of the story of the Catholic Worker at the Franklin Avenue House, her name is one of the names that will be indelibly inscribed on the wall of fame.

Mr. and Mrs. A. J. J. Gilmore, whose daughter Dorothy has been a faithful member of the Franklin Avenue community for many years, have recently returned from a visit to New York. Mrs. Gilmore, who is a member of the Board of Directors, was pleased to see how well the house is running and expressed her appreciation for the work of the staff.

A. J. J. Gilmore

St. Louis Meeting
(Continued from page 3)
available to the speakers, and no one had ever realized I would like to make a speech. I realized that you could not compare the "Call to
Agitation" as received under the leadership of Dorothy Day from 1939 and 1940.

St. Louis Meeting
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