

**ONE MAN'S OPINION**

**Sees Charity as Common Bond  
In Priest's Critique of Merton**

Dale Francis, Charlotte, N. C.

Writing in the Atlantic Monthly a couple of months back, Dom Alered Graham was mighty hard on his fellow-priest, Thomas Merton. You got the idea, reading the Benedictine's criticism, that Thomas Merton not only wasn't much of a writer but that he was a proud and confused man along with it.

Now to be perfectly honest, I didn't get through all of "Seven Storey Mountain" and I only read skimmingly through Merton's other books so I had no way of knowing whether some of Father Graham's criticisms were justified or not.

But now I have read "Sign of Jonas" and the way I feel about it is that Dom Alered Graham seriously misjudged a priest who is very humble and very much in love with God.

There are some Catholics who are afraid of seeming too holy or sentimental. The soup they were burned on is real — there can certainly be too much sentimentality — but they sometimes blow on cold later. There's nothing wrong with loving God openly, there's nothing wrong with feeling that love.

Thomas Merton is in love with God. That's plain and he goes around like a schoolkid chalking a sweetheart's name on the fence. If that is wrong then maybe Merton is wrong. But it isn't pride that makes a man talk about his love for God, it's the love that makes him talk about it.

Some people aren't built that way, what they feel most deeply they hold so deep within their hearts they can't bring it out. That's all right, they can love as deeply as anyone else. But they shouldn't expect other people to be made in their own image.

Probably that's the cause of the one-sided dispute between Father Graham and Thomas Merton. They both are equally in love but they just differ in the way they express it. Only I hope that if Dom Graham feels the need to write about Thomas Merton again he'll do it with charity.

**20,000 Jam London  
Cathedral to Hear  
Bishop Sheen Preach**

LONDON. — A congregation of 20,000 persons — biggest in its 50-year history — crowded in to Westminster Cathedral here for a special Good Friday service at which the preacher was Auxiliary Bishop Fulton J. Sheen of New York.

Many hundreds who had come to hear America's television "Man of the Year" had to be turned away. So great was the crowd inside the cathedral that the Stations of the Cross procession had to be modified.

Bishop Sheen appeared later on a nationwide Good Friday British television program. He was scheduled to leave London on Easter Monday for Rome. From that point he was due to go to Southern Italy for a rest before returning to the United States.

**'Faith, Hope and Hogan'  
New Christopher Film  
Of Stars Donating Talent**

NEW YORK. — "Faith, Hope and Hogan," a film starring Golfer Ben Hogan, will be released for television in Mid-April, The Christophers have announced here.

The film, a copy of which will be sent to each television station, was made on a golf course at Palm Springs, Cal. by Father James Keller and his Christophers.

A million dollars worth of acting talent supported Hogan who made a great comeback as one of the nation's outstanding professional golfers following a near-fatal auto crash in 1949.

Because he believed Hogan's amazing comeback would give courage to millions of people faced with handicaps, Father Keller took his cameras to Palm Springs and set about making the picture, using no script.

The master golfer, just saying whatever came to mind, more than held his own with such masters of the ad lib as Bing Crosby, Bob Hope and Phil Harris. All donated their services.

Hogan told Father Keller he was able to make his comeback by "just working a little harder than he ever had before."

**Korea War Reporters  
Say Truce 'Real Thing'  
But Remember Past Acts**

SEOUL, Korea. — "This looks like the real thing." That's what correspondents on the press train in Munsan are saying about the latest communist proposals for a truce in Korea. High hopes prevail that at least the sick prisoners will be exchanged.

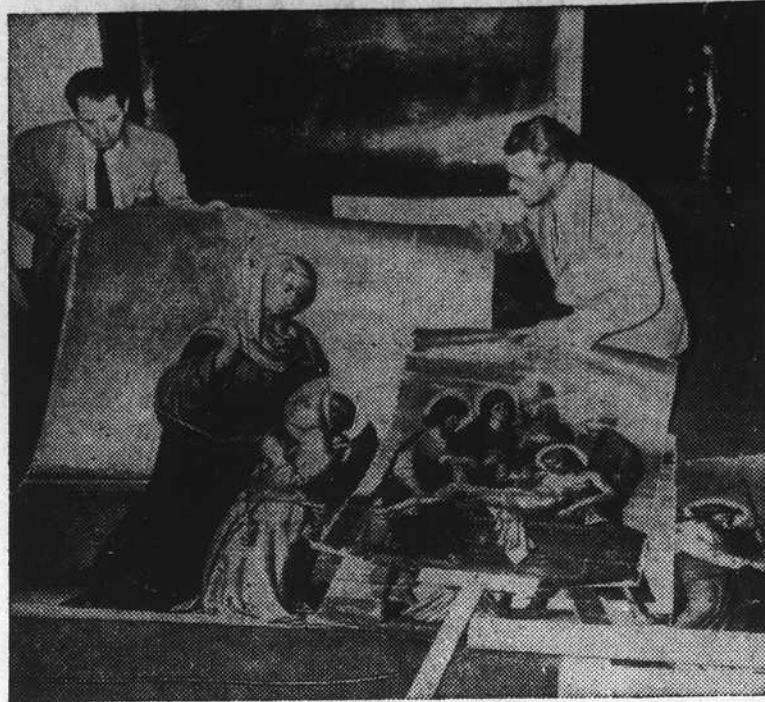
Old-timers among the Korean war correspondents however ruefully recall the illusion of summer, 1951, and later.

The recent change in the communist attitude gives rise to hope Catholic and Protestant missionaries and other civilians seized by the communists in North Korea may also be released soon.

But what about the 40 or more German Benedictine priests, Brothers and Sisters arrested in North Korea in 1949? What about the Korean Bishop Francis Hong, Vicar Apostolic of Pyongyang, his priests and other Korean civilians arrested in 1949 and 1950? The United Nations command would be blameworthy if it failed to press for the release of these prisoners.

Patronize the friendly merchants who advertise in the North Carolina Catholic.

**RECOVERED BY THE FBI**



Two FBI agents in Chicago look over several of the valuable religious paintings stolen months ago from St. Joseph's Cathedral, Bardstown, Ky. Included were three masterpieces, a gift from King Louis Phillippe of France. The nine paintings, cut from their frames, were damaged considerably.

**Three Arrested by FBI  
As 9 Paintings Stole  
From Church Are Found**

CHICAGO. — Three men, one a former Assistant U. S. Attorney, have been arraigned here in connection with the theft of nine oil paintings stolen last November from St. Joseph's Old Cathedral in Bardstown, Ky.

Announcement of the arrests and recovery of the paintings was made here by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The agents said the paintings were damaged considerably.

**Thankful for Paintings**

In Bardstown, Msgr. James H. Willett, pastor of the Old Cathedral, said: "Thank God we have the paintings back — it is a most wonderful Easter present."

The agents said art experts declared a minimum value of \$675,-

000 had been placed on the paintings.

Three of the paintings were the gifts of King Louis Phillippe of France. They were identified as "The Flaying of St. Bartholomew," by Rpbens; "The Coronation," by Murillo, and "The Descent of the Holy Ghost," by Van Eyck.

The Diocese of Bardstown was erected in 1808 and originally embraced the States of Kentucky and Tennessee. The episcopal seat was transferred to Louisville on February 13, 1841.

**Citizenship Upheld**

WASHINGTON. — The State Department plans no action on the further demands of Paul Blanshard, anti-Catholic writer and lecturer, that Archbishop Gerald P. O'Hara be deprived of his American citizenship because he is serving as Papal Nuncio to Ireland. The department says there is no "appropriate" action that can be taken.

Mr. Blanshard recently made public that he had filed a second demand with the State Department that the Archbishop be stripped of his citizenship, and indicated that he would go to court if the department failed to answer him.

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**Diocesan Priest Vital  
To Church, Youth Told**

NEW YORK. — "Where there are no vocations to the diocesan priesthood, there the Church begins to crumble," declared the Rt. Rev. John M. Fearn, S. T. D., rector of St. Joseph's Seminary, Yonkers, New York.

In an address to the entire student body of Fordham College Monsignor Fearn said that the greatest need of the Church today is a holy, zealous and apostolic clergy. "We need missionaries," he asserted. "We need scholars. We need contemplatives. But, above all, we need parish priests." He went on to remind his hearers of the position of the Church in France. "The eldest daughter of the Church has hundreds of parishes without a parish priest. France is rapidly turning pagan."

Monsignor Fearn said that such a thing could happen here. "The duty of the parish priest is not only to keep the faith in areas where it is established. His duty is to preach the faith in areas where it does not exist."

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