

St. Ansgar's Scandinavian Catholic League of New York



Copies of Bulletin sent free to League members; also to others upon request.
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1936

COMMEMORATION OF THE DEATH OF ST. KNUD (CANUTE) IN ODENSE, JULY 12, 1936

By MRS. FRODE C. W. RAMBUSCH

SUNDAY, the twelfth of July, dawned with beautiful sunshine and wonderful summer weather to greet St. Knud, who 850 years ago gave his life for the Church and his Country.

The day was glorious. In St. Alban's Church people gathered in crowds to attend Mass and receive Holy Communion.

At 10:30 o'clock the big hall of the Forum began to fill, while Protestants gathered outside St. Alban's to see the procession to the Forum of priests and acolytes and scouts carrying their banners. They formed a long interesting procession, lead by the cross bearer, who carried the Crucifix high, while many among the crowd bared their heads. We all missed His Excellency, Bishop Brems, who was confined to his bed in Copenhagen, but his Pro-Vicar, Reverend Father Flynn, carried out the High Mass with dignity and solemnity. About four thousand Catholics from all parts of Denmark gathered in the big hall where a beautiful altar had been erected and with its candles and flowers greeted the audience.

The music and singing was beautiful, and the old Organist, Mr. Joseph Hammermuller, had the joy of conducting the choir in some of his own compositions.

The Reverend Jan Ballin, Praem., gave a splendid sermon over the words of St. Matthew gospel, in which the Lord speaks about resigning all for the sake of gaining the Kingdom of Heaven. He said:

"Considering the National Saint of Denmark, the commemoration of whose death we celebrate today, we find a man, one of the greatest who has lived. He willed the greatest Victory over himself.

"Through his forefathers he inherited a violent temper and a penchant towards levity, but testimony by historians

agree that he overcame these inclinations, lived a pure life, and his life became one of service."

Father Ballin dwelt upon the martyrdom of the Saint and urged his listeners to a deeper and more intense Christian life in purity and truth.

In the afternoon a numerous crowd gathered on St. Alban's Market Place, over the stone erected on the spot where St. Knud shed his blood. The several hundreds of Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, with their pennants and flags, among which was a beautiful flag of St. Knud, took place with their band around the pulpit, and after the first verses of the St. Knud's hymn had been sung, accompanied by the Scout band, the Rev. Kjeld Geertz-Hansen ascended the pulpit and spoke in a voice that sounded over the whole market place. He began with the words of the Lord to Moses:

"Take off your shoes, for the ground you stand on is holy." The young priest gave an inspired oration to the honor of St. Knud. The King had sought refuge in the small wooden St. Alban's Church, and here in front of the High Altar, after having confessed his sins and received the Holy Viaticum, he was struck by a mortal spear sent by one of the half-pagan peasant mob that thought if they only killed the King his power would be broken, not realizing

that the blood of the Holy is the seed of Faith.

After the last verses of the hymn to St. Knud, the procession started across the market place to the St. Knud Cathedral. This Cathedral, which was begun by St. Knud, to take the place of the small wooden St. Alban's Church, was finished after the King's untimely death, and dedicated to the martyred king. After the Reformation it was, like most of the Catholic churches, taken away from Catholic cult and became a Lutheran State church. It was no easy matter for about

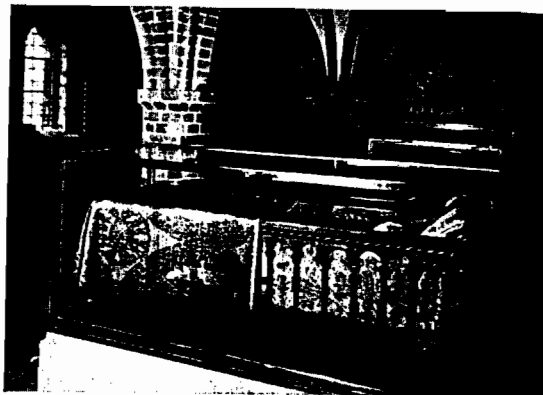


four thousand people to form an orderly procession, but the police and the many Protestant onlookers marveled at the not only orderly, but in fact most devotional procession which under singing of hymns and the Credo passed two and two, guided by the Catholic Boy Scouts, into the Cathedral and down into the crypt to pay homage to the relic of Denmark's National Saint. The Cathedral was prepared for the coming of the Catholics, the big candles on the High Altar were lit and the church warden in full dress received. The ceremony took the form of a pilgrimage and the pilgrims knelt before the glass coffin, half veiled by a beautiful silk cover, probably donated by the Saint's widow, Edele, about the year 1101. Little children were lifted up by their parents to kiss the shrine, and afterwards the crowd visited the church and admired the magnificent triptych, dating from the Catholic times of King Hans and his Queen Christine, the donors.

The defile took more than an hour and at the end of this it was time to go to the afternoon meeting in the Forum at 5:15. Here, the Reverend B. Jensen, pastor of Fredericia Church, called upon those present to rise and in a few minutes prayer turn their thoughts to Rome. Father Jensen then read a telegram sent from the Secretary of State, Cardinal Pacelli, in answer to the greeting sent to the Holy Father; and likewise one from His Majesty, the King, also in answer to a greeting from the assemblage.

And now the third of the young Danish born priests, the Reverend Messerschmidt, from Sonderborg, gave a splendid sermon in which he expressed the hope that the Church which was founded by St. Ansgar, and defended by St. Knud and Bishop Absalon, might rise again and call the people of Denmark to be what they formerly were.

Mr. Henning Jensen, of Aarhus, gave a cheerful address, reminding of St. Knud, and praising the Middle Ages when the Church led the people forward. He spoke of the visit of the Danish King and Queen to the altar of St. Knud in



Tomb of Saint Canute

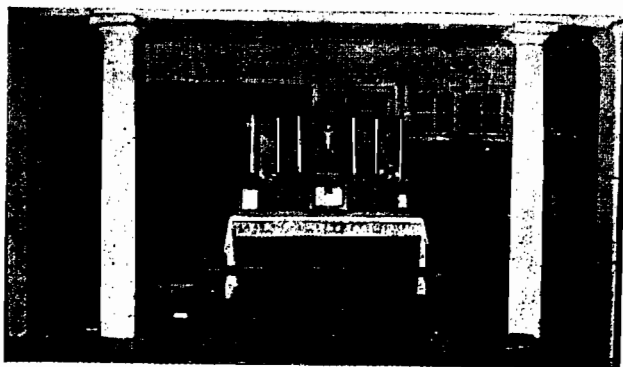
St. Maria Transpontin, Rome, when the royal couple gave a chalice to the altar, well knowing the center of the Catholic service. He finished with a ninefold long life to King Christian the Tenth.

The author, Johannes Jorgensen, was hailed by the assembly when he ascended the pulpit. He expressed his joy at being present at this wonderful feast and in this part of Denmark, which he more than anywhere else considers his native country. He spoke of his Saint of predilection, St. Francis of Assisi, who taught his friends to preach by their example, and of how we ought to follow in his footsteps.

The day from beginning to end will leave a happy memory and without taking any of the glory from the wonderful foreign priests who for more than a century have given their labors and lives for the mission in Denmark, we may with well-founded hope look forward to a long line of native born clergymen who will be able to take up with still greater understanding the work so faithfully begun.

CENTRAL NORWAY

The Right Rev. Msgr. P. Cyprianus Witte, S.S.C.C., Apostolic Prefect, of Molde, Norway, sent us a very interesting article on memorials of the ancient Catholic faith still to be found in the rural districts, with pictures of two old churches. Lack of space prevented printing the article in this number and it is held for later publication.



Interior of Chapel, Kristiansund, Norway

Attention is especially invited to Monsignor Witte's appeal, which follows:

* * * *

Dear Reader: Let me now say a word about the only Catholic chapel at present in Nordmøre.

On the 15th of December, 1932, the chapel was dedicated in a rented dwelling arranged as well as possible under the circumstances. Two white pillars divide the room into two parts of three and six meters in length. The smaller part forms the sanctuary while the larger part has room for five benches.

The Father in charge of the little congregation in Kristiansund is fervently desirous of building a small church for our dear Lord, but the stones are lacking. Who will help him? Who will give him a building stone in the form of a contribution, even if small, so that in time, Nordmøre, where formerly there were so many beautiful Catholic churches, may once again have a new and suitable House of God?

God loveth a cheerful giver.

RIGHT REV. MSGR. P. CYPRIANUS WITTE, S.S.C.C.

OUR HOLY FATHER'S GIFT TO ST. ANSGAR'S

DURING the past year, one of the many blessings Our Divine Lord has accorded our humble organization, and no doubt the greatest blessing was a precious gift from Our Holy Father Pope Pius XI. This was the granting of a Plenary Indulgence to the members of St. Ansgar's Scandinavian Catholic League after they shall have confessed and received Holy Communion on the Titular Feast of the League, and on the same day shall have been present at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass in some Church or public oratory, offering at the same time prayers for the intention of the Holy Father. This great grace is ours for seven years, from the 12th of May, 1936. We can never sufficiently appreciate the distinction granted us when the Holy Father through his personal representative in this country, Most Reverend Amleto Giovanni Cicognani, Apostolic Delegate to the United States, summoned the Spiritual Director of the League to his honored presence, in order that he might convey to the members of St. Ansgar's the loving wish of the Supreme Pontiff to do something for St. Ansgar's League. Although His Holiness wished

to press upon us substantial material help, the Spiritual Director of the League after consulting the members of the Executive Committee, all of whom felt that it would be the unanimous desire of the members, resolved to ask for the spiritual gift which would be of such incalculable assistance to them. This gift then it is which has filled our hearts with gratitude to God and to His Representative upon earth, which has strengthened our determination to bring back to Christ the souls of our fellow Scandinavians who were through no fault of their own lead away from the True Fold and which has rewarded us with the wonderful success which has greeted us in the past few months. We speak of the rich harvest reaped by that Apostle of the League in the Northwest, Rev. George Esterguard. May we show ourselves continually worthy of this Indulgence by our prayers and sacrifices for the conversion of Scandinavians all over the world and by our united endeavors to fulfill its conditions, in order to please the heart of the Great Shepherd of Mankind and to bring into the Fold the lost sheep so dear to the heart of his Master.

HENRY J. ANDERSEN, S.J.

1834/'36

SACRA PÆNITENTIARIA APOSTOLICA

OFFICIUM DE INDULGENTIIS

BEATISSIME PATER

Moderator Sodalitatis, "St. Ansgar Scandinavian Catholic League" nuncupatæ, cuius pæcipua sedes in urbe archiepiscopali Neo Eboracensi exstat, ad pedes Sanctitatis Vestræ pro-voltus, humiliter petit Indulgentiam plenariam, a sodalibus, confessis ac sacra Synaxi re-fectis, die festo titulari lucranda, si s. Missæ Sacri-ficio adstiterint, aliquam ecclesiam seu publicum oratorium visitaverint et ad mentem Summi Pontificis preces fuderint.

Et Deus, etc.

Die 12 Maii, 1936.

SACRA PÆNITENTIARIA APOSTOLICA, vigore, facultatum a SS. mo D. N. Pio Pp. XI sibi tributarum, benigne annuit pro gratia iuxta preces ad septennium. Contrariis quibuscumque non obstantibus.

P. R.

De Mendotes Sum,
S. LUZIO, *Regens.*
F. ROSSI, *Secretary.*

TRANSLATION

SACRED APOSTOLIC PENITENTIARY OFFICE OF INDULGENCE

MOST HOLY FATHER:

The Director of the Sodality, entitled St. Ansgar's Scandinavian Catholic League, whose headquarters are in the Arch-episcopal city of New York, prostrate at the feet of Your Holiness, humbly requests a Plenary Indulgence to be gained by the members after they have received Holy Communion on the titular feast of their Society, provided they have at-tended Holy Mass, have visited some church or public oratory and have prayed for the intention of the Holy Father.

May 12th, 1936.

The Sacred Apostolic Penitentiary by virtue of the facul-ties granted to it by our Most Holy Father, Pope Pius XI, graciously grants the favor requested for seven years. All that is contrary notwithstanding.

By command of His Eminence,

S. LUZIO, *Regent.*

F. ROSSI, *Secretary.*

ST. ANSGAR'S HOUR

By JOHN LAFARGE, S.J.

THE growth of God's works follows laws that are hidden to man. Sometimes they blossom out over night; sometimes they are a gradual and laborious advance against tremendous obstacles. Sometimes, as in the case of St. Ansgar's Scandinavian Catholic League, they obtain their growth only after long years of quiet incubation; as if they had been waiting for the hour to strike.

The rapid spread of the League in the Middle West within the last year is the reason for the preceding remark. No one who had the privilege that I enjoyed in October just past of addressing the Minneapolis Chapter of the League could fail to be impressed with the fact that the League is the response to a great and far-reaching desire on the part of non-Catholics of Scandinavian origin or descent to learn more of the Catholic Church, and of their Catholic brethren to furnish them with the same, as well as to confirm one another in that Faith of the Fathers which has been so happily and gloriously restored to them.

It is a pleasure for me to take this opportunity to renew for the Minneapolis members of the League those greetings which I was then able to convey to them and to their devoted and scholarly Spiritual Director, the Rev. Robert E. Cogwin, from their collaborators in New York, and to wish the same to the other Chapters which a crowded schedule then prevented me from visiting.

Recalling impressions and conversations in the Middle Western country, I am struck by two or three principal circumstances which would seem to indicate why as far as mere human sight can judge, the present time is "God's Hour" for the return to the Catholic Church of a large number of Scandinavian Americans. These may be roughly summarized as: their own religious condition; the attacks made against all religion; and the newer aspects of American Catholic life.

Protestant leaders, I have found, are remarkably frank in acknowledging the critical condition of religion within their own groups. The principle of private judgment, with its rejection of any visible teaching and governing authority in the Church, has worked itself out more and more. It has resulted in the undermining of just those religious strongholds which were relied upon as a substitute for that visible authority. The Scriptures, venerated as the inspired word of God in accordance with ancient Catholic teaching, have succumbed under the onslaughts of private interpretation to modernistic interpretation and dissection. With the skeptical criticism of the Scriptures comes the loss of any effective preaching message on the part of the clergy, so that the pulpit, the other great stronghold of non-Catholic religious faith, has lost its prestige. This has driven many a thinking non-Catholic to inquire where the principle of religious authority may be found.

More alarming still than the perplexity caused by the decay of religious authority is the problem created by direct atheistic onslaughts on all religion. The spread of downright irreligion in our time has shown the high-minded and religiously disposed non-Catholic that the real enemy to his faith is not the Catholic but the atheist and Communist. Under the repeated and insidious blows of the Nazi irreligious propaganda in Germany, Lutherans and Catholics are making common cause in resisting this terrible evil. The result of

this is a new alignment toward the Catholic Church, with a much greater readiness to listen to her claims, and a greater respect for her as the ancient religion of the Northern lands.

Catholic life, too, in our time, presents a new aspect to the non-Catholic, particularly in the United States. The Catholic is much less identified with the immigrant and the foreigner than he was in former years, before the flow of immigration ceased. Catholics of the younger generation have become completely Americanized, for the most part. When a person joins the Catholic Church today in the United States he no longer has the feeling that he is identifying himself with a national group: German, Irish, Italian, to the extent that he did in the past. The different national groups have lost much of their clannishness: that clannishness which helped to save the faith of many an immigrant if he had been deprived of the companionship and the language of his fellow-countrymen, but which at the same time caused many others to lose their faith when they became detached from the national group and national clergy.

The Dane, or Swede, or Norwegian who joins the Catholic Church today takes a religious step, but he is not called upon to experience a change in his social connections or habits to the degree that he was in former years.

So readily and completely are the Scandinavians assimilated to the great majority of Catholics that the number of Catholics of Scandinavian origin, clergy as well as laity, is much larger than at first sight would appear. Sometimes the origin is not indicated by the name, as is the case with the progressive young President of Gonzaga University, Father Leo R. Robinson, S.J., whose ancestors came from both Norway and Denmark.

The annual convention of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference, held at Fargo, N. D., the second week in October, was attended by a very large number of people of Scandinavian origin, some of whom were students at the North Dakota State Agricultural College, where the sessions occurred. There they learned of the great interest shown by the Catholic Church in the coöperative movement, which has achieved such wonderful success and popularity in Sweden, Finland and Denmark, as well as among the Scandinavians in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and other parts of this country. They learned there, too, that the Catholic Church has an ancient and traditional interest in rural life, that in this country Catholic Bishops, priests, and laity are working out a practical agrarian program. They listened to the Catholic Bishop of Fargo as he explained in patient, familiar style the operation of the parish credit union, something already familiar to many non-Catholic Scandinavians in this country and abroad. They attended sessions on rural-school curriculums at which a Catholic nun was chairman, who conducted a discussion with farmers and high-school teachers speaking from the floor. They saw the part that the Church assigns to the layman, how she is helping to make the layman articulate, how her Faith encourages initiative and zeal. They learned how accessible today is information on the teachings of the Church. They saw something of the Church's cultural and historic side, the beauty of her liturgy, the wealth of her literature, art, music, architecture, science, education, etc. All of this, I believe, made an impression; and it is part of the impression which

non-Catholics are gaining everywhere of the Church today: that she is old yet ever young; with roots in the furthest past, yet always ahead of the newest in the modern age.

I have just one hope, or wish, to express to Scandinavian converts to the Catholic Faith, that I expressed as eloquently as I could when I spoke to St. Ansgar's League in Minneapolis. It is that they will cultivate the memory of the language and culture of their ancestral land. Catholics of Scandinavian descent should, it seems to me, realize that they of *all others* are the true interpreters of that wonderful past for the modern age across the ocean. Literature, liturgy, language, music and folk-song, folklore, customs and traditions, architecture, poetry, archeology, ethnology, secular history, religious history, biographies of famous personages, explorations, migrations, social and economic conditions and movements of the older countries, as well as their many international relations, all present fascinating topics for study for convert groups. The hymns and melodies inherited from the past should not be lost. Will not some one trace up the relationship of the Irish and the Scandinavian peoples through the centuries? What a vast field is thereby offered! And what a great incentive to pray that thousands and millions may echo the words of Denmark's great son and convert, whose tercentennial we have just celebrated, Bishop Nicolas Steno, that he wrote to his friend Ole Borch: *O, i Sandhed hellige katholsk Kirke! Hvor lykkelige er ikke hine Börn, der af den evige Barmhertigheds Haand har modtaget dig som Moder! O, erkendte du dog blot Guds Naade, min Ven Borch, og vidste hvad det vil sige at tjene Gud i den*

katholske Kirkes Skød! Oh, Church in truth holy and Catholic! How happy are thy children to whom the hand of everlasting mercy hath given thee as a mother! Oh, if you only recognized the grace of God, my friend Borch, and knew what it means to serve God in the bosom of the Catholic Church!"

GREETING FROM DALUM

ON Friday, July 10th, Mrs. Frode Rambusch was taken by the Reverend Father Resch to the Dalum Convent of the St. Hedvig Sisters. A beautiful drive through Fruens Boege, a lovely beech forest, before arriving at Dalum.

Mr. Albert Amann, who had been informed of the visit, was sick in bed, where he now spends most of his time, as his legs and feet have given way. He had a lovely big room filled with sunshine and flowers. He was full of gratitude to the Sisters who took such good care of him, and who always kept his room filled with flowers. In spite of his illness, his old happy smile appeared, and he was happy indeed to end his days within the delightful convent. He sent his kindest regards to the Reverend Father Directors of St. Ansgar's, and to all the members of our League. The chaplain, the Reverend Father Brinkman, who years ago had visited Brooklyn, came in and took Mrs. Rambusch to the chapel and around the beautiful park, later returning to Mr. Amann to say good-bye, and to enjoy the home grown cherries a Sister had served. The lovely and kind Superior, Mater Hildegardis, greeted the guest.

VADSTENA AND THE BRIDGETTINES—(THE RETURN)

By CARL-AXEL SELVIN

"IT was a dark and dreary November day, when they, heart-broken and disconsolate, embarked on the boat that was to take them across Lake Vetter, the first part of their long journey to Poland, where they were to find a refuge in the Bridgettine Convent of Maria Triumph at Lublin, forced by the heretical policy of King Gustavus Vasa to leave their beloved monastery, their home for many centuries. A beautiful legend from these times tells us that when the boat put out from shore the bells of Vadstena rang out a farewell of their own accord."

These words are a quotation from my article, "Vadstena and the Bridgettines," appearing in the BULLETIN for 1934. Since then a most noteworthy event has taken place within the Order, something that for years had been an intention in their prayers and sacrifices, a dream of centuries, that at last became a reality.

It was through the ill will and hatred of a king, the before-mentioned Gustavus Vasa, who saw in the Catholic institutions and its Bishops the strongest obstacles for his selfish policies, that the Bridgettines became homeless in Sweden. But it was through the good will of another Swedish king, Gustav V, beloved for his democratic spirit and for his zeal for the welfare of all his subjects, and whose consort, the late Queen Victoria of Sweden, was a warm friend of the Bridgettines, that it was made possible for the Bridgettines to return to an-

cient Vadstena. After centuries of exile they have found their way back to the original home, to St. Bridget's, Vadstena.

The Bridgettine Convent at Lublin, Poland, where the Swedish nuns first found an asylum, continued its life until the division of Poland between Russia, Germany and Austria about 150 years ago; Lublin being located in the part of Poland allotted to Russia. True to its policy of suppressing all Catholic institutions, the Czarist government soon found an excuse for closing this convent as so many other Catholic institutions in that unhappy country, and so the life thread of the Polish branch of the Order was severed. At the rise of Protestantism in the various countries of Europe, we find one after another of the Bridgettine Convents dying out, until at the beginning of this century there remained only the Convent at Syon Abbey in England, two convents in the Netherlands and one in Germany and two in Spain.

But—and here the wonder happens, for from the old oak tree, thought to be dying, new branches grow out. Not less than five new foundations have been added to the Order in later years, they being the return of Ancient St. Bridget's House in Rome, Syon Abbey opened a branch convent at old Isleworth, where the original Bridgettine Monastery was located, one in Switzerland and two in Sweden, the latest being the return to Old Vadstena.

There is a name connected with the Order in later years,

its restoration and development, a name especially dear to Swedish Catholics, and that is Mother Elizabeth, Lady Abbess in the Bridgettine Order. Through her initiative and tireless efforts, four new foundations have sprung up, despite obstacles of many sorts. Especially the transfer to St. Bridget's House in Rome, and its costly renovations after centuries of neglect and deterioration was an enterprise of great proportions. Also the return to Vadstena was a difficult undertaking. When for obvious reasons it was impossible to effect a transfer of the old monastery buildings (in the possession of the State) it providentially happened that one of the largest and most beautiful houses in the town, located close to the old monastery Church and Cloister, was for sale. This property was bought by Mother Elizabeth, and after extensive alterations was made over to a Sisters Convent. And so well does the estate lend itself to this use, one gets the impression, that it was in the first place built for the purpose.

Surrounded by a beautiful park and overlooking Lake Vettern, just as the ancient one, the spiritual daughters of St. Bridget, just as in the days of old, can see the first glow of dawn reflected upon the waters when going to Laudes and early Mass.

The large drawing room of the house has been converted into a Chapel, where Holy Mass is said daily and the old Bridgettine hymns and Office are sung.

In a separate wing of the building a section is set aside for a guest house and a place for retreat for paying guests, coming here for physical and spiritual recreation and rest, in a place and a surrounding so beautiful, so restful, so holy. In no other place in Sweden is the past so intimately en-

twined with the present, so when the Angelus bell rings for the Old Monastery Church (it still rings Angelus) and you hear the Vesper hymns for the Sisters Choir in the twilight—it is like taking a leaf from Medieval times, from St. Bridget's and St. Catherine's Vadstena.

The public opening of the Convent took place on Assumption Day last year, when pilgrims from all over Sweden assembled there. For this occasion Mother Elizabeth herself came up from Rome. Several times in the day she was the object of interviews by newspapermen (she received an enthusiastic and friendly write-up in several secular newspapers and periodicals) but the Swedish Catholics in particular were proud of her, reminding them in many ways of Holy Bridget, herself. And now I will let Mother Elizabeth herself speak: "God has been good to us, making it possible for us to obtain this beautiful home in Holy Mother Bridget's town. For years we prayed, all her spiritual daughters, that we once would come back to Vadstena—and God has heard our prayers."

It was, indeed, a great day for the little town; the many pilgrims taking all available rooms there. A solemn field Mass was celebrated in the park, the Chapel being too small for the occasion.

And at the Vesper service in the evening, when the pilgrims listened to the devotional strains of the Bridgettine hymns and Office, and the Old Cloister bells rang its Angelus, they had a very real sense of how centuries are but moments in the life of the Church and that the Fourteenth Century holds hands with our Twentieth.

Day of St. Bridget, October 8, 1936.

Notes from the College of the Propaganda, Rome, Italy, to the President, St. Ansgar's League, New York, N. Y.

By W. VICK

THE Scandinavian students at the College of the Propaganda are accomplishing a laudable work by building up a library of Scandinavian literature to facilitate familiarity and progress in the Nordic languages as part of their preparation for service in the Catholic churches of the North.

The books are obtained by donations, large and small, from friends and acquaintances, and number at present three hundred volumes. Many of the books are unbound, but the students hope to put these in permanent covers as soon as donations permit.

For the International Press Exhibition in the Vatican, the students prepared a Scandinavian Catholic Press Exhibit. While the regulations did not allow the space and arrangement they had planned, the showing was sufficiently large to give a very clear picture of the trying difficulties which the Church has to meet in "the frozen North." As the youngest periodical, *Sinoppskornid*, from the Faroe Islands, that little bit of Denmark far up in the Northern Atlantic, awoke interest.

The students look forward to a typically Scandinavian setting for their exhibit, with an even larger and better presentation, at the next International Exhibition of the Catholic Press.

At present the students number two Danes, one Norwegian,

one Swede, one German for Sweden, and two Hollanders, one for the Faroe Islands and one for Sweden. This number is small for the great work ahead and it is their hope that more students will be sent for this field.

At an audience given to newly arrived students by His Eminence, Cardinal Fumasoni-Biondi, he spoke—in greeting a Dane—of the Scandinavian Missions as very close to his heart, "Because these nations were so cruelly torn away from the bosom of Holy Mother Church, and besides, they are so highly civilized." The students heard this encouraging assurance with great pleasure.

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NOTE: Readers of the BULLETIN will note with sympathy and understanding the efforts of these clerical students to build up a suitable library in connection with their studies and preparation for future work in the Scandinavian countries, and it is suggested that our readers, if in a position to do so, will send a book or books, standard literature, apologetics, etc., etc., in English or the Scandinavian languages, to the following address:

Pont. Collegio Urbano, De Propaganda Fide,
Via del Gianicolo, 12, Roma (129), Italy.

NEWS FROM SCANDINAVIA

DENMARK

In December, 1935, the Catholics of the Faroe Islands issued the first copy of the magazine, *Sinoppskornid*. The editor is the Rev. E. Bockenooogen, Pastor, and the paper comes out every other month.

Rev. Pater J. P. Klessens, O.F.M., Lolland, celebrated, on January 12th, his silver jubilee.

Cand. polyt. Helge Sommer, Administrator of the Monastery of Perpetual Adoration in Copenhagen, received in January, from the Holy Father, the decoration of St. Gregory the Great.

The Catholic doctor, Erik Lynge, who has spent ten years in the Faroe Islands, is now going to Kallundborg as district physician. Dr. Lynge is a tuberculosis specialist and has had the opportunity to make interesting studies in his specialty during his stay in the islands, and he believes that the cause of the spread of this illness originates in defective nutrition, which especially in winter, is too uniform, not containing the right vitamins, and part of the difficulty is the aversion of the islanders to hospitals, etc.

The Faroes have now, on the initiative of the doctor, erected a tuberculosis hospital which works well.

In Thorshavn the St. Francis Sisters opened in August a five months course in housekeeping.

Mr. F. Grobetz from Auslandsseminar, St. Paul in Munster, and Mr. Nolke, from Liesborn in Westphalen, received the Diaconate on March 15th, from His Excellency, Bishop Brems. The sacred ceremonies took place in the Bishop's chapel in Valby.

Mr. Grobetz was ordained by the Bishop on July 19th, in St. Ansgar's Church in Copenhagen.

On March 18th, six postulants received their habits, nine novices made their first vows, and seven St. Joseph's Sisters made their perpetual vows in St. Josephsdal, Strandvej.

May 24th, the Congregation of Mary "the Queen of the Apostles," celebrated the silver jubilee.

A new parish dedicated to St. Knud Lavard, has been founded in Lyngby. The Bishop on May 19th, appointed the church council and a lot has been bought in the town opposite the railroad station, and it is to be hoped that a chapel will soon be erected there.

Academicum Catholicum celebrated on the twenty-seventh of March its fortieth jubilee. There was a large attendance.

Nordisk Ugeblad reminds its readers of Nicolaus Steno, Denmark's greatest biologist and pious convert, priest and Bishop, whose third centenary will be celebrated on January 11, 1938. Its December 6th number contains a summary of his life.

The excavations that are taking place in Oem Convent's old cemetery (twelfth century) prove the high place medical science held in the Middle Ages, and the old bones found bear witness of many operations that have been performed, such as trepanning after brain tumor, etc.

On Sunday, July 12th, the 850th anniversary of the death of St. Knud, King and Martyr, was celebrated in Odense. Description will be found elsewhere in the BULLETIN.

Danish Womens' Catholic Union has as usual given two retreats, one for ladies, led by the Reverend Father Messerschmidt, and one for young girls, by the Reverend Father Flyn.

The Benedictines of St. Lioba have settled in Sonderborg with one German and one Danish Sister, and another Danish Sister will soon be added to the small Community.

In July their Excellencies, the four Bishops of Denmark, Sweden, Norway, and Finland, met in Copenhagen with His Grace, Archbishop Constantine, Secretary General of the Congregation of the Propaganda, to decide about the erection of a preparatory school for seminarians (*Seminarium minus*).

Decision was taken to erect the Seminary in Copenhagen by November, 1937.

A new Catholic school was blessed in Haderslev on August, 19th.

Attending the Fourth International Linguistic Congress held in Copenhagen, in August, were half a score of prominent Catholic ecclesiastics; among them Professor van Ginneken from the Catholic University in Nijmegen.

A prominent Convert from the Lutheran clergy, Cand. mag. et theol., Niles Hansen, observed his seventieth anniversary on September 15th.

This year Our Lady's Church in Silkeborg celebrated its silver jubilee.

On the fourth of September three Sisters of St. Benedict arrived from Chiemsee, at the Monastery, Jagtvej, Copenhagen. They came to help the contemplative Order of the Sisters Adorers make the transition to the St. Benedict Order, under guidance of Pater Wolfgang Czerinn, O.S.B.

On October 24th the transition took place.

Mater Elisea, of the St. Elisabeth Sisters, celebrated on October 24th, her golden jubilee and her convent rejoiced.

Danish Womens' Catholic Union held its fifth general meeting in Copenhagen, on the 25th and 26th of October, and an impressively long list of activities has taken place.

Johannes Jorgensen celebrated on the 6th of November the seventieth anniversary of his birth, and on the 8th of November, Catholic youth tendered the renowned convert and author a beautiful festival in Copenhagen, which his Excellency, Bishop Brems, honored with his presence, and in which many well known people from all paths of life took part.

On November 5th, Miss Susane Saabye celebrated her eightieth anniversary. For many years Miss Saabye has been (gratis) organist and cantor in the Convent on Jagtvej, and many are the clubs and charitable institutions that have enjoyed the assistance of her never failing energy, her good will and her infectious good humor.

The Danish scientist and Nobel Prize winner, Professor Niels Bohr, and the Norwegian Professor V. K. E. Bjerknes, are among the first seventy members of the Papal Academy appointed by Pope Pius XI.

Pater Jón Svensson, S.J., celebrated, on November 16th, his eightieth birthday, on his way to Japan. His visit in New York will be spoken of elsewhere in the BULLETIN.

Foundation stone to the new St. Annae Church, Amager, was laid by the Bishop on November 19th.

NORWAY

Reverend Mother Zoë, provincial of the St. Joseph's Sisters, was, on January 15th, through the French Minister, given the renowned and honorable decoration of the Legion of Honor.

On the day of the Assumption a Mass was said in a pre-Reformation Church in the open air museum in Lillehammer. This church has never been used for Protestant service. The old chapel dedicated to Our Lady and St. Olav is generally called the Chapel of the Fishermen, because once upon a time it was placed on the shore of the lake of Mjoesen.

It was dedicated in 1459 by Bishop Gunnar of Hamar.

A new parish school was opened by His Excellency, Bishop Mangers, at Arendal in January. This was a happy event made possible by the acquisition of room not before available.

A boarding school for young girls, the St. Katharina-Hjemmet, in Oslo, under the direction of the Sisters of the Third Order of St. Dominic, was enlarged by an additional new brick building containing rooms for twenty persons. At the opening, the Father Prior, the Very Reverend Father Henry Béchaux, officiated.

In November, at Hammerfest, the most northernly town and church in the world, a new hospital building was opened by the Right Reverend Monsignor Starke, Apostolic Prefect of northern Norway.

A new hospital building in Fredrikstad was inaugurated by Monsignor Irgens, Pro-Vicar.

In Lillehammer, at the northern end of the large lake, Mjoesen, a little chapel has been opened in which Mass is celebrated regularly every second week by the Dominican Fathers of Hamar.

In Oslo, the parish church of St. Olav, the residential church of Apostolic Vicar, was thoroughly cleaned and repainted. For lack of funds this work had not been done in thirty years.

In Porsgrunn work has been started on a new building for the parish school which is expected to be ready in 1937.

In Bergen, the foundation stone for a new hospital was laid in September. The hospital will be finished in 1937.

In June the clergy of the Apostolic Vicariate assembled for spiritual exercises at the Bishop's House in Oslo. The Right Reverend Monsignor Starke, Apostolic Prefect, of northern Norway, conducted the retreat. Thirty-one priests attended, the greatest number of priests at one place since the Reformation.

On November 12th and 15th, the silver jubilee of the Catholic Hospital and Parish of Arendal was celebrated with great festivity. Bishop Mangers and Monsignor Kjelstrup, D.D., the founder of the parish, were present, as were also the authorities of the town.

SWEDEN

For the first time in centuries the Feast of Corpus Christi was celebrated on that day this year in Old Vadstena, with a procession in the park surrounding St. Bridget's Convent. Many Catholics from the province of Ostrogothia took part. High Mass was sung in the flower bedecked Sisters Chapel and it all ended with a joyful Te Deum.

The Papal decoration Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice has during the year 1936 been bestowed on Mrs. Maria Cowes, of Norrköping, and Miss Maria Ende, from Forsa.

Stockholm is fast changing into a great metropolis, noticeable particularly in later years through extensive alterations, opening of wider streets and parks and boulevards. The oldest Catholic church in Stockholm, St. Eugenia, 100 years old, is located in the old, congested district, and the parish authorities have just been notified that the church, together with all the buildings in the neighborhood will have to be expropriated and razed to give room for a wide boulevard and a park. A lot has been offered in another part of the city and a Foundation called "St. Eugenia's Building Fund" has started its work for the new church in the Swedish capital.

A new chapel is being opened for the Catholic parish at Visby.

CATHOLIC ACTION IN FINLAND

THE following letter, containing such splendid news, has been received from our correspondent in Finland, Mr. Arthur Clopatt, who has been a member of St. Ansgar's League for many years:

32 e Fabriksgaten, Helsingfors, Finland.
December 15, 1936.

DEAR SIR:

I herewith want to inform you of the foundation this Autumn, here at Helsingfors, of a society called "Academicum Catholicum." The Academicum Catholicum has been approved by the Vicar Apostolic of Finland. Its chief object is

to bring together Finnish Catholic university people for work in common, *i. e.*, graduates and undergraduates. Persons who have passed the matriculation examination, even if they have never actually studied at a university, are also admitted.

The Academicum Catholicum also runs an Information Bureau from which information about things Catholic may be obtained.

The address of Mr. Gallén, to whom all correspondence should be sent is: Lönnrotsgaten 3, Helsingfors, Finland.

I hope the above news will not reach you too late to be printed in the forthcoming issue of ST. ANSGAR'S BULLETIN.

Yours faithfully,

ARTHUR CLOPATT.



ST. CANUTE, PATRON OF DENMARK



ST. ANSGAR, PATRON OF THE NORTH



ST. OLAF, PATRON OF NORWAY

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO BECOME A MEMBER OF ST. ANSGAR'S SCANDINAVIAN CATHOLIC LEAGUE OF NEW YORK, TO ASSIST IN ITS GREAT WORK OF BRINGING THE FAITH OF OUR FATHERS BACK TO SCANDINAVIA, AND TO SHARE IN ITS BENEFITS

DENMARK, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Greenland, Iceland and the Faroe Islands were at one time great Catholic strongholds. Their population today is 16,000,000 and of this number 31,000 are Catholics; surely a fertile field for the spread of the Faith among a cultured people whose countrysides are rich with old Catholic convents, churches and cathedrals.

St. Ansgar's League has six monthly meetings during the Fall, Winter and Spring, at which communications, reports and papers of interest are read. These meetings are combined with our social gatherings.

A beautiful Bulletin is published yearly, entirely devoid of advertisements, and in this are found summaries of the League's activities, a synopsis of events in Catholic Scandinavia, as well as articles on current and early Catholic history.

The League was started in New York at the suggestion of Cardinal Farley twenty-five years ago, and in recent years has received personal letters of encouragement and

blessing from the Apostolic Delegate, His Excellency, the Most Reverend Amleto Giovanni Cicognani, D.D.; Cardinal Fumasoni-Biondi; Cardinal Hayes; the late Cardinal van Rossum, the late Prefect of the Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith in Rome, and His Holiness, Pope Pius XI.

The progress of the Church in Scandinavia during the last few years has been very healthy and encouraging. You will truly be helping in a worth while cause in bringing back the Faith of Our Fathers to Scandinavia.

There are three kinds of membership available, Subscribing Member and Regular Member, for which the annual dues are \$1.00 and \$3.00 respectively, and Life Member \$100.00. All funds derived from payment of dues and donations are devoted exclusively to missionary work and to the purchase and distribution of apologetic literature.

Announcements of meetings and copy of the BULLETIN will be sent you regularly. On the Feast Days of the Patron Saints, Masses are said for the League and its members, as well as for its deceased members.



ST. HENRY, PATRON OF FINLAND

TEAR OUT AND MAIL COUPON

I should like to be enrolled in St. Ansgar's Scandinavian Catholic League as

- Associate Member \$ 1.00
- Regular Member 3.00
- Life Member 100.00

NAME

ADDRESS

Checks may be mailed to

MRS. G. A. ESTERGUARD, Treasurer
69 West Third Street, Bayonne, N. J.



ST. ERIC, PATRON OF SWEDEN

JOIN ST. ANSGAR'S LEAGUE

FINNISH NEWS

MISS FANNY M. LAITINEN sends the following interesting letter regarding her work:

To: St. Ansgar's League, New York, N. Y.

I hereby wish to send my annual greetings to St. Ansgar's League and also give you a brief report of what I have done during the year.

The following requests for Finnish Catholic literature have come and all have been answered:

James Shea, St. Thomas Seminary, Denver Colo.

Father Ronald Beaton, Comox, B. C., Canada.

Father Beaton says in his letter that there are several Finnish families in and near his parish.

A request for the name and address of the Vicar Apostolic came from a priest in Pennsylvania who wished to send Mass stipends to Finland.

Father Gabriel Ryan, C.P., St. Gabriel's Monastery, Brighton, Mass., inquired about Finnish Catholic literature on the Passion and Death of Christ. We have been collecting this type of literature for nine years.

Letters from Monsignor Carling and the Sisters of Finland give a very good picture of the conditions under which the work of the Church is carried on there. The Sisters conduct

a school and Children's Homes. When they first established their school they conducted it in Swedish, but recently have changed it to a Finnish one. The Government advised them to do so since it would be better for their future.

A new residence for the Bishop and a summer resort, "Stella Maris," for the Sisters and children, have been acquired by the Church in Helsinki.

The school curriculum is the same as that in the State schools. Even English is included in the course.

On September 6th, Monsignor Carling celebrated his silver jubilee in the priesthood. He is a convert from Lutheranism and the only native Finnish speaking priest in Finland, and is stationed at Terijoki, Finland. In one of his letters he describes his chapel as the second floor of an old summer resort. It is not very suitable for a place of worship, but lack of funds prevents him from building a better one.

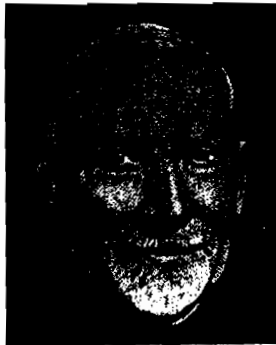
I hope that St. Ansgar's League will have a very successful year and be an important instrument in carrying the Faith to the people of the North and their descendants.

Yours sincerely,

FANNY M. LAITINEN,

December 7, 1936. Farnham Avenue, Peabody, Mass.

FATHER JÓN SVENSSON, S.J.



JÓN SVENSSON
(Nonni)

adventures during that year. His years in France, 1871 to

Now that Father Jón Svensson has visited the United States, it is hoped that all of the "Nonni" books will be translated into English. There are about a dozen titles which have been published in nearly thirty languages, including Chinese and Japanese and have had a sale of 6,000,000 copies.

At the age of twelve, Father Svensson left his native land, Iceland, for France, but the Franco-Prussian War of 1870 forced him to remain in Denmark for a year. In "Die Stadt om Meer" he tells of his

1880, gave him adventures for his book: "Nonni in Frankreich."

Invited by the Government of Iceland to the one thousand years celebration of the Althing there, in 1930, Father Svensson returned for the first time to his childhood home. A new book followed: "Die Feuerinsel im Nordmeer."

His remarkable memory enables him to tell the adventures of himself (Nonni) and his brother (Manni) in Iceland, with such charm and color that readers of all ages are delighted.

Father Svensson is now eighty years old. His writing of these fascinating stories of adventure for the young began when he was fifty-six and convalescing after a severe illness. He is hale and vigorous today, traveling across oceans and continents alone, interested in all that he sees, retaining an infectious good humor, and beloved by thousands of readers all over the world—truly a wonderful man, and truly a saintly priest.

"Prayer for the Conversion of the Scandinavian People"

By REV. KARL SHILLING, 1835-1907

"Good Jesus, I humbly fall at Thy feet and pray Thee by Thy Holy Wounds and by Thy Precious Blood which Thou hast shed for the whole world, to look in mercy on the Scandinavian peoples. Led astray hundreds of years ago, they are now separated from Thy Church and denied the inestimable benefit of the Sacrament of Thy Body and Blood, and also, the many other means of grace which Thou hast instituted for the consolation of the faithful in life and in death.

"Remember, O Saviour of the World, that for these souls also Thou didst shed Thy Precious Blood and endured untold sufferings.

"Good Shepherd, lead these Thy sheep back to the wholesome pastures of Thy Church, so that they may be one flock

together with us under Thy Vicar here on earth—the Bishop of Rome, who in the person of the Holy Apostle Peter was commissioned by Thee to care both for the lambs and for the sheep.

"Hear, O merciful Jesus, these our petitions, which we make to Thee with full trust in the love of Thy Sacred Heart towards us, and to Thy Holy Name be glory, honour and praise to all eternity.

Nihil Obstat:

Imprimatur:

REV. HILARY A. LEUTNER, M.A.,
Censor Librorum.

✠ ALEXANDER J. MCGAVICK,
Bishop of La Crosse

FIELD SECRETARY'S REPORT

By REV. GEORGE ESTERGUARD

AS the year draws to a close, we take account of what has been accomplished and realize that with all the effort, the complete goal has not been reached.

However, it is my pleasure to record the establishment of three new units of St. Ansgar's League in the fertile field of our great Northwest. In the spring was accomplished the erection of the Eau Claire, Wisconsin, Unit for which plans had been laid the preceding fall.

In October, through the kindness of Father James Byrnes, Secretary of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference, I was privileged to speak before an assembly of priests and Bishops to present our cause. The result of which was the opening of a vast field of endeavor in which time alone prevents more rapid development.

Since that Conference, the story of which is one of glory, and as a direct result of it, there has been brought into being the St. Ansgar's League of Fargo, under the able direction of Father Thomas Hendrickson, son of a Norwegian convert.

Since this was accomplished the latter part of November, it did not seem likely that more could be done in the face of the winter that was already upon us. But, braving sub-zero cold, a trip was made to open still another Unit under the auspices of my own Bishop and the immediate direction of Father Hugh Wolf at Garretson, S. Dak.

The last named place was selected chiefly because of the very deep interest of Father Wolf, who sees most keenly the opportunity the League offers for particular missionary work amongst our great Scandinavian population in the Northwest.

It might seem that three Units is a small number for the period of a year, but caution forbids too great haste. Slow but sure methods always seem to bring more certain results. It would be possible to build more quickly, but the quality of the work necessarily would suffer.

It may interest all the members to know that in addition, during the past year, I have visited all existing Units and have laid the groundwork for the further extension. Thousands of miles of travel were undertaken joyfully to bring closer relations between the various groups. One week alone called

for eight hundred miles, with a different city as an objective each day.

The cooperation of the priests with whom I have worked, as well as the enthusiasm of lay people, and the untiring efforts of the officers of the various branches have lightened my burden and brought me much joy.

An honor of especial note was conferred on the League at the National Catholic Rural Life Conference, when I was selected as a member of the Board of Directors to serve for the ensuing year. My election to that office, though it gladdened my heart, I feel sure was chiefly in recognition of the Apostolic labors of all our truly Catholic associates. May God grant us all the grace necessary to carry on our special mission at any cost. We need only to plant the seed and He will grant the increase. I only wish I had the literary skill to convey to the members of the League the fire of unselfishness which motivated the five thousand who expended themselves at the Conference in Fargo last October.

From such a spring one could not help but drink an intoxicating potion of Catholic Action zeal. There I learned of unbelievable sacrifices being made by clergy and laity to advance works that would make God better known. St. Peter and the other Apostles surely must have been there to impart some of their assistance, for never have I been closer to Apostolic fervor.

There were priests from all corners of our country and from Canada. Laity had traveled untold miles to give generously of time and substance to learn wherein they might serve. All these with few exceptions received no reward except the imperishable one.

The lesson of Fargo, in which we had a part was, that the self-satisfied state of affairs, from which we were rudely awakened a few years ago, had been a false and worldly treasure. I would that I might be able to impart some measure of this lesson to each and every member that the sacrifices we may be called upon to make will be accepted not as burdens, but as opportunities to earn the Eternal Treasure. The peace of this holy season of Christmas must abide in our hearts, but can do so only when our will is the Will of God. May we help to extend it to other hearts.

REPORT FROM THE LA CROSSE, WIS., UNIT

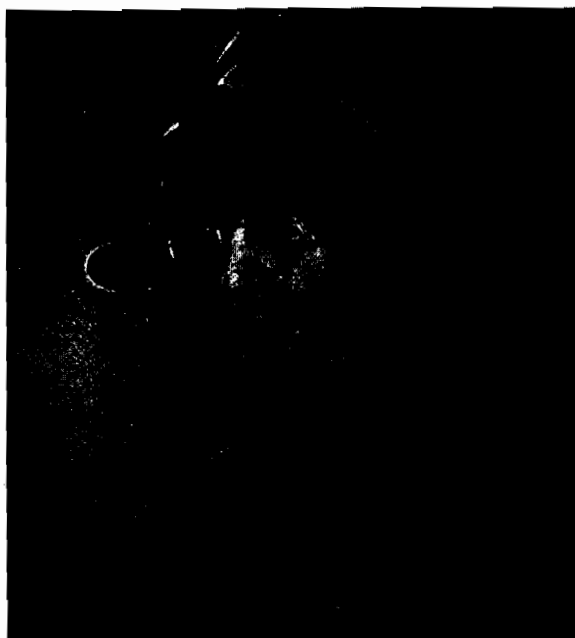
By MRS. JOHN F. DOHERTY, *President*
(CLARA JACOBSEN)

VERY fortunate was the organization of St. Ansgar's League of Scandinavian Catholics in La Crosse, Wis., in the light of present developments in Europe. Since March, 1936, this League has sent the sum of \$1,500 to His Excellency, Jacob Mangers, D.D., Bishop of Oslo, for the purpose of relieving the straitened conditions of Catholics in Norway, both priests and laymen, who find themselves cut off from their usual support since Adolf Hitler will allow no money to pass from Germany. Many of the priests working in the missions in Norway are from religious orders in Germany, and these religious orders have been able to support their missions thus far. But now some new source of support must be relied upon, and this is where St. Ansgar's League in La Crosse has

been able to do much good. Money sent over is for Mass stipends and it has been gathered in various ways by the Chancery office of La Crosse.

The League's year has been very eventful. Since the launching of the La Crosse diocesan paper, *The Register*, the League has had weekly letters from Norway published. These were sent by Oscar J. Hanssen, to whom the organization will pay a given amount annually for keeping its members informed on the progress of missionary work in Norway.

How League work in La Crosse can progress without payment of dues by members has seemed almost miraculous, but the treasury is not entirely empty at any time in spite of the gifts made. One of these gifts was a sum given to the Rever-



MRS. JOHN F. DOHERTY
President, La Crosse, Wis., Unit

REPORT FROM THE MINNEAPOLIS, MINN., UNIT

By MRS. GEORGE KENNEALLY, Corresponding Secretary

THE first fall meeting of the League took place on October 9, 1936. This was the first open meeting and was attended by two hundred Scandinavian converts, members and friends. Through the courtesy of the League of Catholic Women, who turned over their clubrooms at 807 Hennepin Avenue, for the occasion, the members were able to take advantage of the opportunity to have as their guest speaker, the Rev. John LaFarge, S.J., who was in the city *en route* to the Rural Life Conference.

The opening prayer was led by the Rev. Robert E. Cogan, and followed by reading of minutes and a beautiful musical program arranged by Mr. Cecil Birder of the University of Minnesota. Those taking part in this program were Mrs. Cecil Birder, Miss Margaret Cravens, Mrs. Joseph Auel and Richard Cravens.

REPORT FROM THE EAU CLAIRE, WIS., UNIT

By OTTO LUND

ORGANIZED in February, 1936, by the Reverend Father Esterguard of Big Stone City, S. Dak., the "Convert League of St. Patrick's Church, affiliated with St. Ansgar's Scandinavian Catholic League," has been quite active, its growing membership evincing an increasing interest in the meetings, and the aims and purposes for which it was organized.

The Rev. J. H. Deeny, assistant pastor of St. Patrick's Church, who has taken a lively interest in the organization from the start, has delivered the lectures so far, including one on the Mass, another on the significance and meaning of the various articles used in the Mass, and on other phases of Catholic worship.

Father Deeny, although of Irish descent on both sides of his family, can speak Norwegian fluently, and is at home

and Father George Esterguard, of Big Stone City, S. Dak., Director of St. Ansgar's Leagues in the West, for organization work at Bayfield, Wis. Money is raised by means of card parties and gifts.

The only condition for membership is recitation of three Aves daily or the beautiful prayer for the conversion of Norway by the late Rev. Karl Shilling, and the receiving of Holy Communion once a month. The League has had three hundred copies of Father Shilling's prayer printed for distribution among members and others interested. The prayer has the imprimatur of the Right Reverend Bishop, A. J. McGavick, Bishop of La Crosse.

At the September meeting the League was able to express its appreciation to Monsignor Hirt in a measure for his fine work in directing it, by giving a dinner for him at its meeting place, the K. C. Club, and presenting him with a fountain pen. The dinner was in honor of his recent elevation to the rank of domestic prelate. His investiture was a few Sundays later at St. Rose Convent.

In October a Leif Erickson program was given, with Monsignor Hirt the speaker and two non-Catholic Scandinavians of the city furnishing the musical numbers.

Earlier meetings of the year had as their themes the reading of the various letters from Norway.

The League has a very comprehensive scrapbook in which every item of publicity concerning the organization or the growth of the Church in Norway is kept.

Father George Esterguard of Big Stone City, S. Dak., came in for the meeting and to present the guest speaker, Father LaFarge, who gave a most interesting address and whose words of encouragement were highly appreciated by the members.

The officers of the Minneapolis branch are: Mr. Eugene Lund, President, Incarnation Parish; Miss Alice Landry, Vice-President, St. Elizabeth's Parish; Mr. Adolph Hanson, Recording Secretary, Holy Name Parish; Mrs. George Kenneally, Corresponding Secretary, Annunciation Parish.

Other active charter members include: Mr. Einar Christianson, Holy Rosary Parish; Dr. George W. Nelson, Ascension Parish; Mr. A. O. Hegdahl, Ascension Parish; Mrs. George Dooher, Ascension Parish; Mr. Einar Jeppson, Hopkins, Minn.; Mr. R. J. Mickelson, St. Helena's.

in this work with the Convert League, largely made up of Scandinavian converts. However, as many converts not of Scandinavian origin asked to become members, it was decided at the organization meeting to adopt the name of The Convert League, affiliated with St. Ansgar's Scandinavian Catholic League, instead of St. Ansgar's League.

The late pastor, the Rev. A. B. C. Dunne, had more than 1,100 conversions to his credit when he died about ten years ago, and was referred to in the *Literary Digest* as the "Convert-Maker" of America, and the Right Rev. Msgr. C. E. Dowd, his successor as pastor, with his assistants, has continued the great convert work where it was left off by the late Father Dunne.

A definite program is now being formulated for presentation to the organization.

REPORT FROM THE GARRETSON, S. DAK., UNIT

EARLY in December, a group of Scandinavians met in St. Rose's Rectory to form a Unit of St. Ansgar's Scandinavian Catholic League of New York. The National Field Secretary, Father G. Esterguard, explained its purposes and outlined plans for the new Unit.

Father Hugh Wolf of St. Rose's Church attended the

meeting as he is much interested in the hopes and plans for the religious, intellectual and social improvement of the members, and the great work of conversion of the Scandinavians back to the great Mother Church, under the patronage of the Great Saint of the North St. Ansgar, and St. Olaf of Norway, St. Eric of Sweden and St. Canute of Denmark.

IN MEMORIAM

Pro-vicar Reverend Peter Schreiber, one of the eldest of the priests of the Danish Vicariate, was called away on January 31st, 77 years of age.

Father Schreiber had worked in Denmark for over fifty years and had been everywhere from Iceland to Kolding, Fredericia, Horsens, and during the latter years in Copenhagen at St. Joseph's Hospital and as Pro-vicar. He was a very practical man and a good administrator and when leaving a post, he was sure to leave the parish in good pecuniary state. He was a mild spiritual guide, although not vacillating in his opinions or his actions. *R. I. P.*

Reverend Pater Josef Schmidt, S.J., died on March 23rd, in Valkenburg. Pater Schmidt was born in 1854, and worked as teacher at St. Andrew's College in Ordrup. After his ordination, 1890, he was attached to the Church of the Sacred Heart in Copenhagen, later Rector for St. Knud's institution. Under the World War he was pastor in Esbjerg till 1920, and went from there to Valkenburg, St. Ignatius College, from where death called him. Father Schmidt was a supernaturally adjusted priest whose entire soul was filled with thoughts of life eternal and whose whole energy was spent in the service of God. *R. I. P.*

The founder of Norwegian Catholic Women's Union, Miss Kristine Heggen, died in September, and will leave an empty place in the parish and among her many friends for whom she meant so much. *R. I. P.*

Mrs. Inga Laerum Liebich, well known in the Scandinavian music world, passed away in September, 72 years of age. The *Oslo Press* spoke about the deceased with great respect. *R. I. P.*

Sister M. Herthula was buried on the 30th of September, from St. Elisabeth Hospital, Sundby.

When Reverend Father Theodore van Houghten ended his earthly life on November 27, 1935, he left a vacancy difficult to fill. He was the first Bridgettine chaplain in Sweden after the so-called Reformation, having for ten years been chaplain at the Bridgettines at Djursholm, Sweden. His sterling

character, his wonderful education and his ever ready smile won him many friends in wide circles, who add their prayers to those of the bereaved Sisters. God grant him eternal rest!

The 30th of June, 1936, died in Gothenburg, the Superior for the Grey Sisters there, Mother Adelberta, and on November 29, 1935, another of the Grey Sisters was called to her reward, namely Sister Lambertina S.S.E., erstwhile Superior and Manager of King Oscar I Memorial Home for Aged in Stockholm. *R. I. P.*

A long, colorful and very busy life ended on April 3, 1936, when Dr. Joseph Muller, Ph.D., nearly ninety years of age, on that day, was called away. He was one of the very few now living persons remembering Queen Josephine of Sweden, blessed in memory, and for a number of years he served her in the capacity of Private Secretary. For many years he was the teacher of French at the Royal Naval Academy and founder of the Alliance Française in Stockholm, and a number of other societies. At his requiem in St. Eugenia Church in Stockholm, where the Royal Court was represented, gathered a great many of L'ancien régime to bid their friend a last farewell.

Sister Raphael Thérèse, nee Caroline Overn, was called away from the Carmel Monastery, Antwerp, on May 28th.

The deceased was born at Modum, Norway, in March, 1863, was received into the Church by Bishop Falleze in May, 1893, and in 1895 entered the Carmel in Antwerp.

Sister Raphael Thérèse conserved always her great love for Norway, and it was a great joy for her to join St. Eystein's Union. She gathered in Belgium a great number of members for the same. May she rest in peace!

Her sister in America is Mrs. Marie Brataas, mother of Mrs. Andrew Petterson, Recording Secretary, one of St. Ansgar's first members.

We announce with deep regret the death of Dr. Lange, an esteemed and beloved resident of Cincinnati, and an old friend of the League. During the month of March, Father Andersen offered a Mass for the repose of his soul. *R. I. P.*

AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF ST. ANSGAR'S SCANDINAVIAN CATHOLIC LEAGUE

At the February meeting the Secretary gave the proposed amendment to the Constitution, concerning the privileges and responsibilities of the new units and the parent organization, a second and final reading. Father Andersen made the motion that the amendment be accepted and Mr. Wilson seconded the motion; it was therefore unanimously accepted and passed. It now stands as part of the League's Constitution. Considerable time was spent by the Executive Committee, assisted by Father LaFarge, Father Andersen and Father Esterguard in the preparing of this amendment. It was felt to be of great importance and all care was exercised to work out an amendment which would be short, clear and fair. The main idea in the mind of everyone was to see that some sort of definite relation was maintained between the units and headquarters and at the same time complete and absolute freedom be given each unit within its diocese.

AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF ST. ANSGAR'S SCANDINAVIAN CATHOLIC LEAGUE

Article

A group wishing to take up the work of the League shall be admitted as a branch or unit upon written application approved by their Bishop.

1. They shall comply with the Constitution and By-Laws.
2. They shall annually contribute to the national headquarters \$1.00 per member, which money shall be used to defray the general (not local) administrative expenses (BULLETIN, apologetic literature, stationery and postage). "Member" includes members of branch units.
3. Their activities shall extend to all parts of the diocese in which they are located.
 - (a) They may set up additional or branch units within

- (b) All matters pertaining to their diocese shall be referred to them for action.
 - (c) All matters emanating from outside their diocese concerning other dioceses shall be referred to the League's headquarters.
 - (d) They shall send an annual report of their activities to the League's headquarters.
 - (e) Life membership shall be made payable to the general administrative fund. The income, during the life of the donor is to be paid to his branch or unit.
4. The League's headquarters shall give all possible assistance to a branch or unit.
- (a) They shall furnish information and data from their files and archives and make available all their contacts.
 - (b) They shall furnish apologetic literature in the Scandinavian and Finnish languages as may be required and available.
 - (c) They shall annually edit and print a BULLETIN, which shall treat of any and all matters of interest to the League, locally and throughout the country. The BULLETIN shall be an official expression and circulating medium of information for all members and friends of the League.
 - (d) They shall annually provide each member of the League with one copy of the BULLETIN and each branch or unit with three file copies.
 - (e) They shall provide the branches or units with space in the annual BULLETIN.
 - (f) They shall annually prepare a statement covering general administrative expenses.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF ST. ANSGAR'S:

Your St. Ansgar's League annually gets out this very attractive BULLETIN and, through its pages, it is my privilege to once again address all the members of the New York headquarters, the La Crosse, the Minneapolis and the Eau Claire units and also our hundreds of friends in the South, the far West, as well as in Scandinavia, Iceland, the Faroe Islands, in Rome and in China. Here I shall cover the activities of Headquarters and such other points as I feel are of interest to our distant members and associate members and may I recommend to you the reading of the "Unit Reports." From these you will readily see how great the activity and the success of your League has been. Each unit has done much and, collectively as a League, our work has had far greater effects and results than anyone would believe possible. You are one and all to be heartily congratulated and sincerely thanked for your part in this great work.

First and foremost, we are profoundly grateful to His Excellency, the Most Reverend Amleto Giovanni Cicognani, Apostolic Delegate to the United States, through whose kind assistance we have received from the Holy Father a great spiritual gift. Pope Pius XI has granted us an indulgence which may be gained by the members of St. Ansgar's if they attend Mass and receive Communion under the usual conditions on the Feast of St. Ansgar, February 3d. On that day

let us all offer up our Communions as one, thanking for all that has been given us and petitioning, through the intercession of St. Ansgar, God's guidance and blessing on us, our families and our work.

We sincerely thank Archbishop Murray, Bishop McGavick, and Bishop Kelly, for their wonderful assistance, cooperation and encouragement, without which nothing could have been done. To Bishop Mahoney we express a special thanks for the many leaves of absence which he has given our Field Secretary.

We extend sincere thanks to our many benefactors who, though not members, have silently observed our work, and when appealed to, all gave and gave generously, so helping us lift a great debt which slowly increased over the many years during the depression, while we were holding the fort and tilling the soil which has now borne the fruit of several new Western units. Our only great expense during all those years was the annual printing of the BULLETIN through whose very channels the appeal was made. Included among the donors were 1 Cardinal, 7 Bishops, 32 members of the clergy and 5 Religious and a great many non-member friends.

To Father Esterguard I extend, in the name of the entire St. Ansgar's League, a special thanks for the great enthusiastic personal, and eminently successful, manner in which he has promoted the work of the League in the West. Fa-

ther Esterguard's tireless energy and executive ability alone made it possible for him to carry on all his Parish work and covering thousands of miles to do all the work in connection with establishing and maintaining contacts with the newly formed units and the groups about to be organized. Each unit knows what he has done in their specific case and we, here at Headquarters, know what he is doing among the many groups. The total result is really unbelievable. In fact, without divine inspiration and assistance it could never be done. We heartily congratulate you, Father Esterguard, upon your election to the Board of Directors of the Catholic Rural Life Conference. We hope your new activities will bring you into new fields, some of which may have need of additional units. When you feel we can help, we sincerely trust you will call on us.

We sincerely thank the various Spiritual Directors for all the time which they have so generously given and for their prudent advice and we thank the officers of the La Crosse, the Minneapolis, and the Eau Claire units for their so successful management of their respective problems.

Father LaFarge has, for years, done preliminary missionary work and buttressed our position with many strategically timed and well written national news releases. More recently, he attended the Catholic Rural Life Conference and visited the Minneapolis unit. The report which he gave us on his return of their personnel, the meeting and other activity was most enthusiastic and inspiring. Father LaFarge has strengthened our bonds and affiliations as nothing else could. For all that you have done, Father LaFarge, we thank you.

May we suggest that the Secretaries of the various units exchange correspondence and post headquarters and the other units on when and where their meetings are held? From time to time some of the members may be traveling and they might easily arrange their trips so as to be present at a meeting. We, here in New York, should be honored and happy if the Spiritual Directors or the members of the western units could attend our meetings which are usually held on the second Thursday of each month and, if the visit should be between meetings, we could, even on short notice, gather a few together and have luncheon with our guest.

On this occasion I should also like to publicly express the League's appreciation to our Secretary, Mr. Arthur Andersen, for all the work which he has been doing. In addition to the usual correspondence, which has annually gone through New York, there has, during the last few years, been a tremendous increase due to all the correspondence with Father Esterguard, the local Bishops and all other interested parties, regarding the starting of each new unit. And last year, when the donations from our benefactors came in, our Secretary wrote a personal letter of thanks to more than 150 of our friends who, along with their checks, sent letters explaining why they were interested in our activities and how long they had observed our growth.

It was the privilege of a few of the New York members to have luncheon with the eighty-year-old Reverend Jón Svenssen, S.J., native of Iceland.

We all deeply regret that time did not allow his visiting us and the other Units. He had so many interesting things to tell.

Father Svenssen is on a trip to Japan to see several of his former seminarians. He says the native Japanese priests are most scholarly and devoted and that the country as a whole seems to be in a very receptive state of mind, that the people at large seem to feel and yearn for religion. Father Svenssen

will continue his journey westward so as to make a complete trip around the world.

We announce with joy that Reverend Lawrence Wilson, S.J., son of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Wilson, who are among the pioneer New York members, said his First Mass at St. Ignatius' Church on June 28th.

Mr. John Madsen, who has for many years corresponded with us, paid us a visit this summer. He has recently received his sub-Diaconate Orders. His field of activity will be in the diocese of Grand Island, under the Most Reverend Stanislaus V. Bone, D.D., Bishop of Grand Island, 204 East Second Street, Grand Island, Nebr. Mr. Madsen is very enthusiastic about the possibilities this diocese offers for additional units. In a note to the President, Mr. Madsen mentions the fact that there were thirty-eight Danes and descendants of Danes present at the Ordination on August 30, 1936.

During July our dear friend and member, the Reverend J. Lambert Erkens, S.M.A., Chaplain of the Novitiate of Our Lady of Providence, The Helpers of the Holy Souls, Chappaqua, N. Y., celebrated his twenty-fifth jubilee as priest. Father Erkens for many years has attended our meetings and on every occasion has added to the program with a short and very interesting talk or kindly advice. From time to time it has been our privilege also to receive articles from him for the BULLETIN.

Mr. Wick, a young Dane, who for years has been in Canada and the Far West, some time ago was taken into the Church. Recently he has been corresponding with us, and this summer, on his way to the College of the Propagation in Rome, he visited us here and told us that his heart was set on getting back to Denmark and there to serve among the ever increasing number of outstanding native born clergy. A short communication recently received from Mr. Wick is printed elsewhere in the BULLETIN.

Mrs. Frode C. W. Rambusch, our President Emerita, on her trip this summer confined it essentially to Denmark. An account of her experiences, at the celebration in honor of the Centenary of St. Canute's death, is recorded here in the BULLETIN.

As at Dubuque a few years ago, so again this year we were represented at Fargo, N. Dak., at the Catholic Rural Life Conference with a booth and some exhibits. It was all very modestly done and included a complete set of specimens of all the apologetic literature now available in the Danish, Norwegian, Swedish and Finnish languages. There were also copies of the regular Catholic native publications. Flags of all these countries, including Iceland, as well as pictures of the patron Saints, as well as a complete chart of statistics, were included. Leaflets were distributed, outlining the purpose and work of St. Ansgar's League. These also had a list of all our active units.

Father Esterguard, even though he was very busy, was on hand at the booth most of the three days to answer hundreds of questions. He also gave a scheduled and very effective talk on St. Ansgar's League.

We hope to again assemble this little exhibit and, should any of the units feel that it may be of interest, we shall be glad to send it on to them for their inspection.

For many years we have been subscribing to the Danish, Norwegian, Swedish and Finnish Catholic publications, weekly and monthly, and these we send on to a selected set of members who undertake to read and condense the Scandinavian Catholic news of interest which you will find printed elsewhere in the BULLETIN. We also have a few correspondents in

Scandinavia who, from time to time, send us items of interest.

Meanwhile, if you should come across news or items of interest in your papers or magazines or books, which you believe would be of interest to the other members, please forward it to the editor of the BULLETIN. The more we get, the more complete and valuable our BULLETIN will become.

Headquarters and the BULLETIN also welcome communications, questions and suggestions as to possible unit activities and progress, BULLETIN make-up and articles. Please share your experiences and knowledge with the rest of us.

Our Christmas party last year was at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Esterguard. We all had a lovely evening, delightful entertainment and wonderful refreshments. We also had the great joy of having Father Esterguard with us. He gave us a detailed report of everything that was happening in the newly formed units.

Do you know Miss Fanny Laitinen, of Peabody, Mass.? For years she has been a member of St. Ansgar's League. Silently and faithfully she has completed yet another year as our representative and correspondent on all matters emanating from and pertaining to the Finns and Finland. We all deeply appreciate what she has been doing.

Our work has just begun and our growth is spreading through a section of the country rich in Scandinavian heritages. We must now consolidate our forces and make still further advances. To accomplish this each and every member of St. Ansgar's League must fervently pray for our success and diligently apply himself to the work of the League. We here in New York hope for the advice, support, assistance and cooperation of the La Crosse, Minneapolis and the Eau Claire units. In union there is strength.

The original purpose of the League was to spread the knowledge of the Catholic Faith among Scandinavians in this country. With the limited emigration, this field of activity is fast disappearing. The interest of the St. Ansgar's members, be they first generation, second generation or lovers of Scandinavia, is invariably focussed on the land of their ancestors and the Faith of their forefathers. This background of culture and religion, which others are more and more getting to understand and admire, is our heritage and our possessions. Who can tell but the day may fast be coming when we, in this country which only a few decades ago were assisted by the missionary zeal of Europe, may in turn be able to help bring the Catholic Church, with its blessings and glories, back to Scandinavia. If we stand together, work together and pray together, it will be our privilege to help in this great mission.

NOTE: The President's report was written early in December. Meanwhile, we have received the report of the La Crosse Unit, and as you will note, this Unit has of its own accord already expressed itself in a very generous and beautiful manner.

NOTE: February 3rd, St. Ansgar's Day is also the Feast of St. Blaise, and follows immediately after the Feast of the Purification of Our Lady (February 2nd). This gives members an opportunity to receive Holy Communion, have their throats blessed as customary on St. Blaise's Day, and to share in the indulgences granted for the Feasts.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

MASS is said by our Spiritual Director for the intentions of the League on the Feasts of St. Canute, January 19th; St. Ansgar, February 3rd; St. Olav, July 29th, and St. Bridget, October 8th.

VERY IMPORTANT

One of the objects of our League is "the work of the conversion of Scandinavians by such lawful means as may be available." The most important means we have been using is the free distribution of Catholic apologetic literature in the Scandinavian languages.

We ask leave to remind the clergy and lay people who come into contact with Scandinavians interested in getting further knowledge of our Holy Faith to send in such names and addresses, and we will feel very happy to mail literature and enter into correspondence with them.

Literature in the Finnish language can be had by applying to Miss Fanny Laitinen, Farnham Avenue, Peabody, Mass.

The Officers of the League are as follows:

REV. HENRY ANDERSEN, S.J., *Spiritual Director*

REV. JOHN LAFARGE, S.J., *Director of Programs*

REV. GEORGE ESTERGUARD, *Field Secretary*
Big Stone City, S. Dak.

MRS. FRODE C. W. RAMBUSCH, *President Emerita*

MR. VIGGO F. E. RAMBUSCH, *President*

RIGHT REV. MSGR. LEO P. HIRT, *Spiritual Director of La Crosse, Wis., Unit*

REV. ROBERT E. COGWIN, *Spiritual Director of Minneapolis, Minn., Unit*

REV. J. H. DEENY, *Spiritual Director of Eau Claire, Wis., Unit*

REV. THOMAS HENDRICKSON, *Spiritual Director of Fargo, N. Dak., Unit*

REV. HUGH WOLF, *Spiritual Director of Garretson, S. Dak., Unit*

MRS. G. A. ESTERGUARD, *Treasurer*
69 West Third Street, Bayonne, N. J.

MR. G. A. ESTERGUARD, *Vice-President*

MRS. ANDREW PETERSON, *Recording Secretary*

MR. ARTHUR ANDERSEN, *Corresponding Secretary*
435 76th Street, Brooklyn, N. Y.